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*E. K. WATERHOUSE.*



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HALE HALL:

WITH

*NOTES ON THE FAMILY OF IRELAND*

*BLACKBURNE.*



# HALE HALL:

WITH

NOTES ON THE FAMILY

OF

IRELAND BLACKBURNE.



LIVERPOOL:

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# DEDICATED

TO THOSE OF THE

DESCENDANTS OF A TIME-HONOURED RACE

WHO WILL DERIVE FROM THE PAST, PROMISE

FOR THE PRESENT, AND HOPE FOR

THE FUTURE.



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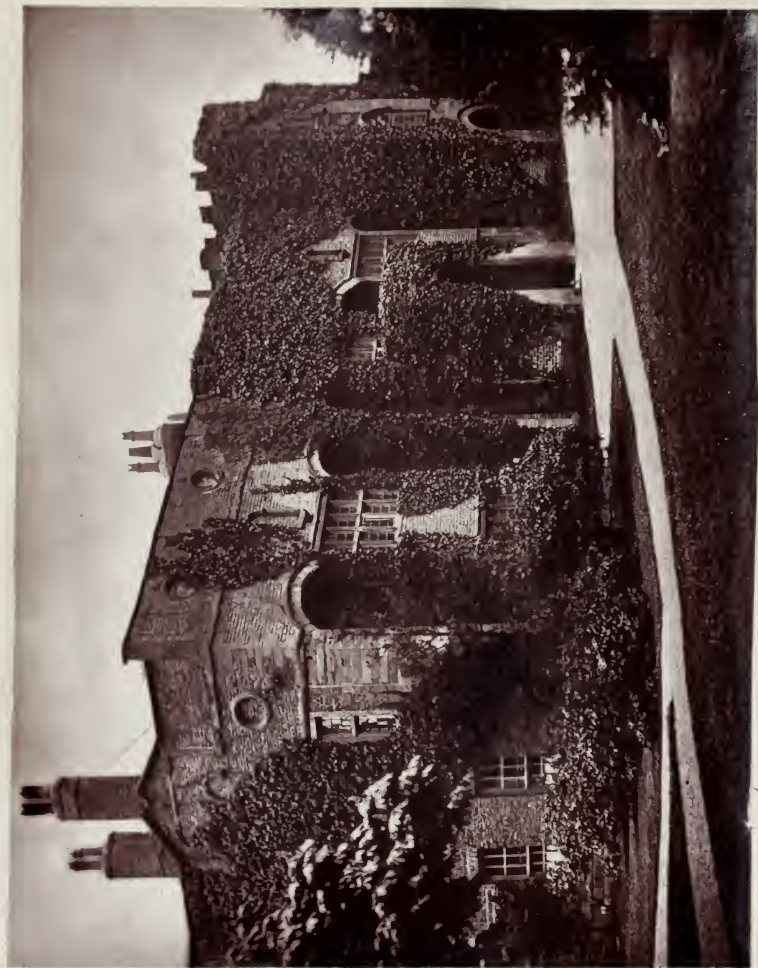
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HALE HALL, OLD NORTH FRONT.

## THE VILLAGE OF HALE.

FORTY YEARS AGO.

THE Village of Hale, in the vicinity of which is situated the Hall, the subject of our notes, is one of the very few now left to us which, having escaped the intrusive hand of the modern builder, retain their primitive pastoral beauty and neatness. Being at a distance from any public road, and destitute of any manufactory, it is sequestered and peaceful. The cottages are healthy, thatched, and whitewashed, and the venerable mansion, formerly the parsonage-house, though at present nothing more than a farmhouse, adorns the village green. The churchyard is kept with much neatness, and is a charming retreat from the noise and bustle of the world. It is remote from the village, and joins the park of Colonel Ireland Blackburne. The venerable hall of Hale, the broad expanse of the Mersey, and the romantic hills above Frodsham, in Cheshire, are objects seen to advantage from it.

The village is situated ten miles south-<sup>east</sup>~~west~~ of Liverpool, in an angle of the river Mersey, which is three and a half miles wide at the beach off Hale Point, where it takes a north-easterly course between

the now busy towns of Runcorn and Widnes, up through Warrington, thus partially isolating Hale, which, before the days of railways and the Runcorn viaduct, was eight miles from the nearest high road from Liverpool to London, *viâ* Warrington.







HALE HALL, NORTH FRONT.

## HALE HALL.

Hale Hall, the seat of Colonel John Ireland Blackburne, M.P. for the South-Western division of the county of Lancaster, is delightfully placed in a park at a short distance from the village.

It is almost surrounded by fine timber, but its south front commands an extensive view of the river Mersey and the hills of Cheshire.

The date of its erection is unknown, but its occupation by the Ireland family is distinctly traceable as far back as 1190.

The old north front was altered to its present form by Sir Gilbert Ireland, M.P. for Liverpool, who completed it, as it now is, in 1674; previous to this date it presented a gable-ended front, which was effaced by the introduction of the peculiar screen, with arches connecting the abutments (probably to give greater height). He also built the tower as it now stands, with the view of making it the centre of the north front, inscribing on it his own name and that of Margaret, his wife, but it was never completed, and he died in 1675.

The south front was built from the designs of Nash, in 1806, by John Blackburne, who represented Lancashire in the House of Commons for forty-six years, in the days when the county had but two representatives.



HALE HALL, SOUTH FRONT.



## POSSESSORS OF HALE.

The following list of the possessors of Hale, in a direct line, from 1199 to the present day, is partly copied from a parchment Roll, still in the possession of the family and treasured amongst its manuscripts, written in black letter, "shewing the descent and many particulars of the Manor of Hale, from the time of the grant of that Manor (then in possession of Gilbert de Walton) by charter from King John, signed at Rouen, 1203, to Richard de Myda or Media, clerk, son of Gilbert de Walton, and through the subsequent owners, Columbers and Holland, to Ireland, in 1308." The substance of the contents of this interesting document will be found in Baines' *History of Lancashire*.

1. Gilbert de Walton, lord of Hale and Halewood.
2. Henry Walton.
3. Richard de Myda Walton, son of Gilbert, as above.

In 1221, Henry the Third took Hale into his own hands, but restored it to Richard de Myda, in 1222, and, in 1227, made a grant of it to him and his heirs.

4. Cecilie de Walton, daughter and heir of Richard de Mida=Alan de Columbers.\*
5. Cicely Columbers=Sir Robert Holland.
6. Avena Holland=Adam Ireland, 1308.
7. John'es de Hibernia, *vide* page 12, 1350.
8. David de Ireland.
9. Sir John de Ireland, 1401.
10. William Irelande.
11. John Irelande.
12. Wylliam Irelande, 1498.
13. Sir John Irelande.
14. Thomas Irelande, 1589.
15. George Ireland.
16. John Ireland, 1603.
17. Gilbert Ireland, brother of John, 1626.
18. John Ireland, 1633.
19. Sir Gilbert Ireland, M.P., died 1675.
20. Eleanor Ireland=Edw. Aspinwall.
21. Mary Aspinwall, 1738=Isaac Green, of Child-wall, died 1749.
22. Ireland Green, 1798=Thomas Blackburne, of Orford.
23. John Blackburne, 1833.
24. John Ireland Blackburne, 1874.
25. John Ireland Blackburne, Col.  
M.P. for S.W. Lancashire since 1875.

\* Hence the Ireland crest, Dove and Olive Branch (*Colombe*). Alan de Columbers was Dns. of Hale and Halewood, in right of his wife, Cecilie.









OLD HUTT.—WINDOW OF BANQUETING HALL, 1804.

*From a Sketch by Sir Foster Cunliffe.*

## THE OLD HUTT.

The old baronial mansion called the Hutt, or Haut, was formerly the residence of the Irelands, and was originally surrounded by a moat, which is even now only partially filled up.

The Hutt was at one time a building of considerable importance, as its remains sufficiently attest.

The massive stack of kitchen chimneys, the large stone transom window-frame, the ancient chimney-piece, and the upper range of windows, all indicate its former consequence. The great hall was one hundred feet long and thirty feet wide, and its remains were distinctly visible in the early part of the present century.

The Gate-House is of more modern date ; and it is probable that as the Old Hall of Hutt was crumbling away, the original gatehouse was converted into a residence for members of the Ireland family. William Ireland, of Hale and Hutt, built it as it now is (about 1411), his arms and those of Ellyn, his wife (daughter of Sir John Handford), being carved on two stone shields, side by side, over the principal window.

The arms of the Irelands of Hutt have also their

place on one side of the same front, probably removed from the centre of the original gatehouse when the alterations were made.\*

The name of John Irelande, 1608, carved in a curious stone mantelpiece, in an upper room, and over a stable door in the courtyard, warrants us in supposing that he resided here for some time.

Traces of the Drawbridge (used when the moat entirely enclosed the hall and gatehouse) still remain in the massive stone chain-ports in the wall for working it (now glazed to give light). "The building lies low, and being a secluded spot, in a flat country, surrounded by wood, removed from any public road, it was suited to the hostile times in which it was built, subjected as this part of the country was to the invasions of the Scots." †

The entrance from the bye-road into a large courtyard, surrounded by stables, was in a straight line with the drawbridge and the then open archway through the gatehouse (now a room) up to the front entrance of the hall, some 40 yards further on.

The Courtyard, a square surrounded on three sides by stables, ending in a chapel at the moat, testifies, by its size, to the convenience that it would afford for the mustering or concealing of troopers.

Since those days the premises have been converted into a farm-house ; many outbuildings are removed,

\* The arms of Ireland of Hutt merged in a younger branch, that of the Irelands of Bewsey.

† Gregson's *Fragments of Lancashire*.

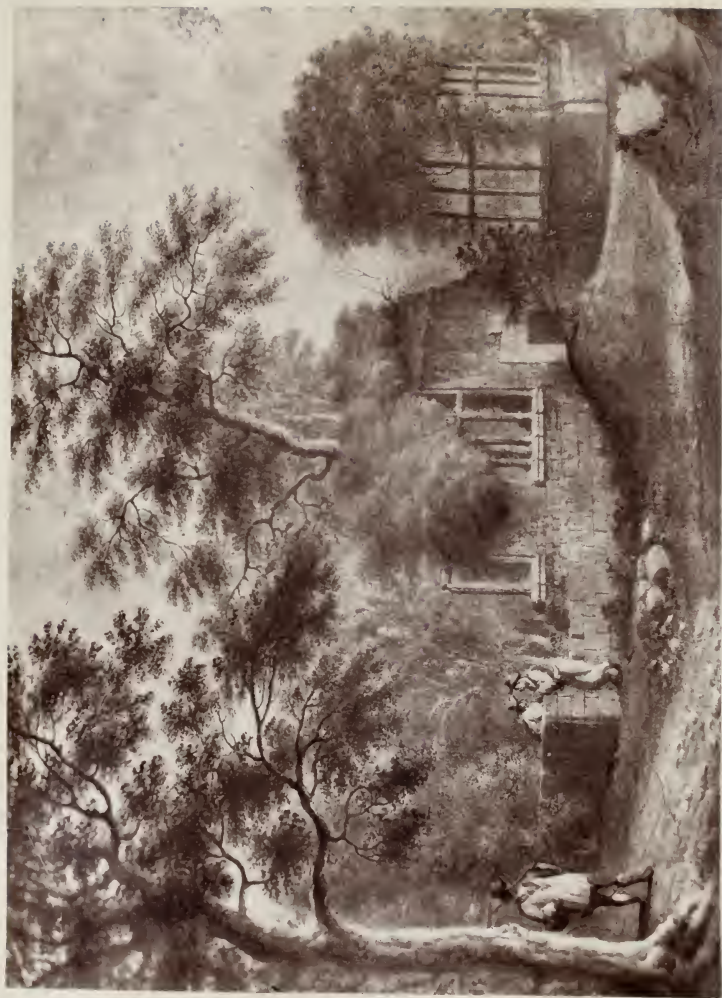


GATE HOUSE TO THE OLD HUTT









REMAINS OF THE OLD HUTT IN THE LAST CENTURY.

*From an Old Drawing.*



and entrances made, and the additions to the gatehouse betoken more the utilitarian than the æsthetic spirit of the day in which the changes were made.

The Old Hutt is two miles by a pleasant walk across country from Hale.

The estates of Hale and Hutt became one property by the marriage of Adam de Ireland, of Hutt, with Avena, daughter and heir of Sir Robert Holland, of Hale, 1308. *Vide* p. 12.

## THE IRELANDS OF HUTT.

The original papers of the Pedigree of the Irelands were drawn up by Richd. St. George Norroy and his son, Sir Henry, Blue Mantle of the Visitation of Lancashire, 1613, "with the signatures of the *very gentlemen themselves* then living," of whom honorable mention is made in old documents in the British Museum, No. 1437, and Harleian MSS., 2062, 2129, 15429, 61459.

Sir Robert Irelande, of Hutt, Knt., "in the raigne of King John, in great favoure & countenance wyth him, as appeareth diuerse wayes."

"King John, during his brother's lifetime, appears to have had great intercourse with this part of the county. It was said that Rodger (Joh'es de Irelande) built the Castle of Liverpool: others say King John. He was in great favour with him, as was Sir Robert, who had much land in Liverpool. King John, in the lifetime of his brother, Richard I., owned Cornwall, Lancashire, Nottingham and Derby."

Adam Ireland of Hutt, afterwards of Hale and Halewood, in right of his wife, Avena de Holland, of Hale, 1308. He built the "New Ile" in Hale Church, and the old glass windows (of which none remain) were put in by him.

William Ireland married Ellen Handford, relict of Sir John Stanley, and heir of Sir John Handford, whose arms were in the houses of both Hale and Hutt, cut in stone, and are still to be seen in the gatehouse of the latter place. He was mainly instrumental in bringing to light the "Three Metrical Romances," known as the Ireland MSS., probably assisted by the then Chaplain of Hale Chapel, Kendale, who, if he were not the author himself, may have been his descendant. *Vide* p. 53.

John Ireland was Lieutenant of the Isle of Man in 1611.

## GENEALOGY OF THE IRELAND FAMILY.

The following genealogy of the Irelands is extracted from the pedigrees compiled between 1518 and 1616, commencing at the time of the Norman Conquest, 1066, and continued to the present time.

1. Johannes de Hibernia came over with William the Conqueror, settled at the Hutt, and was buried in Hale Church, 1088, as appeared engraven on the window of the old chapel, of which he built the chancel, 1081.

2. Sir — Irelande.

3. — Irelande.

4. — Irelande. Three Irelandes in succession of whom little is known.

5. John'es Irelande—*Regnante* Richard I., 1190—father of Robert (is elsewhere called Rodger).

6. Sir Robert Ireland=Beatrix, d. of William of Hutt, 1215. Daresbury, de Daresbury.

7. John'es Ireland of=Matilda, d. and heir of Hutt. John Hesketh, of Rufford.

8. Adam Ireland of=Avena, d. and co-heir of Hutt, 1316 (and after- Sir Robert Holland, of wards of Hale and Hale- Hale, and Cicely Colum- wood). bers, his wife, 1308. (1)

9. John'es de Hibernia, = Agatha, d. of Stephen  
1350, of Hutt, Hale, and Merton, Lord of Beb-  
Lord of Bebbington and bington and Worrall,  
Worrall, in right of his 1347.  
wife.

10. David de Ireland, of = Margery, d. of Sir Wil-  
Hutt, Hale, and half liam Stanley, of Hooton  
Bebbington. and Stourton, Cheshire.

11. Sir John de Ire = Margery, d. of Halsall,  
lande (?), buried in Hale Lord of Halsall.  
Church, 1401.

12. William Irelande. = Ellyn, d. and heir of Sir  
John Handford, and re-  
lict of Sir John Stanley.

13. John Irelande, = Margerye, d. of Sir Wil-  
buried in Hale Church liam Atherton, of Ather-  
1462. ton.

14. Wylyyam Irelande, = Ellyne, d. of Sir Wylyyam  
1498. Molleneux, of Sephton. (8)

15. Sir John Irelande, = Margerye, d. of Sir John  
m. soon after the Battle Stanley, brother of  
of Bosworth Field, d. Thomas, Lord Stanley,  
1526. first Earl of Derby, who  
placed Henry VII. on his  
throne, for which services  
he was created Earl, 1485.

16. Thomas Irelande, (4) = Margaret, d. of Sir  
d. 1589. Richard Boulde, lord  
of Boulde.

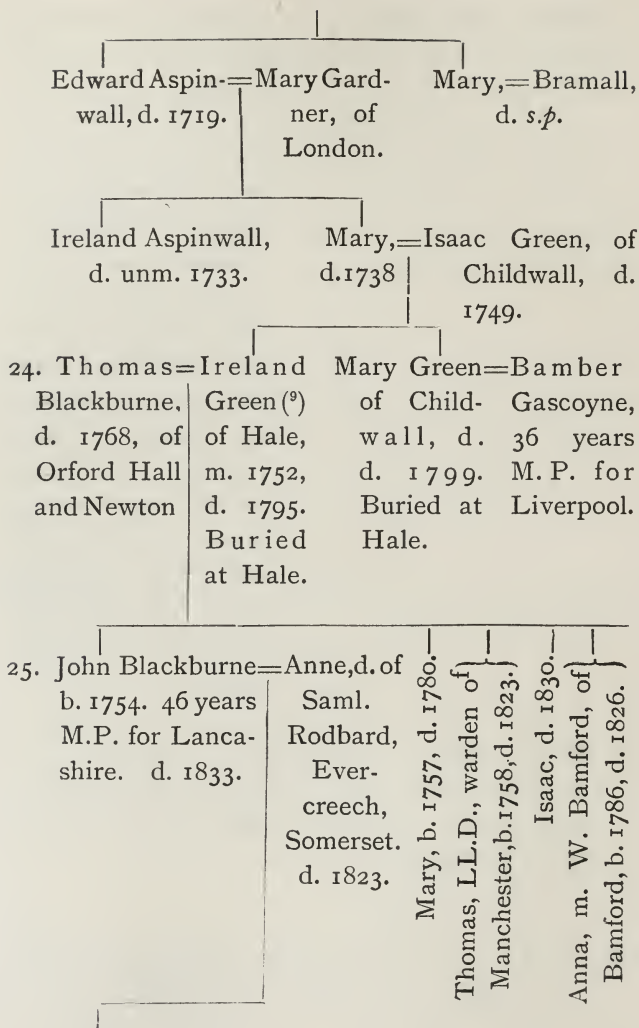
17. George Ireland <sup>(6)</sup> b. = 1st. Elizabeth, d. of Rafe  
1580, of Hutt, Hale,  
Crowton, and half  
Bebbington. George  
Ireland left 4 sons,  
John, Gilbert, George,  
Thomas.
- 2nd. Elizabeth, d. of —  
Colwick of Colwick,  
and widow of Peter  
Leycester, of Tabley,  
*s. p.*
18. John Irelande, <sup>(6)</sup> d. = Katheryne, d. of Peter  
1617. High Sheriff  
of Lanc. 1605.  
Leycester, of Tabley,  
and aforesaid Eliza-  
beth Colwick.
19. Gilbert Ireland, <sup>(7)</sup> = Barbara, d. of George  
(inherited 1617) 2nd  
son of George Ire-  
land, Sheriff of Lanc.  
in 1623; d. 1626.  
Legh, of High Legh.
20. John Ireland, d. 1633 = Elizabeth, d. of Thos.  
Hayes, a rich London  
merchant and alder-  
man.
21. Sir Gilbert Ireland, <sup>(6)</sup> = Margaret, d. and heir  
b. 1624; d. 1675. *s. p.*  
of Thos. Ireland, of

Hence the descent  
through his sister  
Eleanor, who mar-  
ried E. Aspinwall, of  
Aspinwall.

Bewsey, Warrington,  
Poulton and Hoom  
(Hulme). She sur-  
vived Sir Gilbert two  
months, and left Bew-  
sey to Richard, son of  
Richard Atherton of  
Atherton, and Elea-  
nor, his wife, sister to  
Thos. Ireland, of Bew-  
sey. Hence the Ather-  
tons who merged into  
the (Powys) Lilford  
family, by the mar-  
riage in 1797 of Anne  
Maria, d. and heir of  
Robt. Vernon Ather-  
ton, of Atherton, with  
Thos. Powys, Lord  
Lilford.

22. Eleanor Ireland, heir-ess and eldest surviving sister of Sir Gilbert Ireland. = Edward Aspinwall, of Aspinwall, near Ormskirk.

23. Gilbert Aspinwall, d. 1717. = Jane Bushell, d. of W. Bushell.





26. John Ireland Black=~~—~~Anne, d. of William Bam-  
burne, represented      ford, of Bamford, d.  
Newton, and after-      1861.  
wards Warrington,  
till 1847. b. 1783,  
d. 1874.
27. John Ireland Black=~~—~~1st. Mary, d. of Sir Henry  
burne.      Bold Hoghton, Bart.,  
of Hoghton Tower.  
d. 1855.  
2nd. Emma, Viscountess  
Hereford. d. 1870.

## NOTES.

(<sup>1</sup>) The sister and co-heiress of Avena Holland conveyed her estates in Halewood by marriage to Sir John Lovel, from whom they passed into the possession of Francis, Baron Lovel, Holland, Degencourt and Grey, mentioned in Shakespeare's *Richard the Third*, Act iii, sc. 5, as an adherent of the House of York; who, in support of the same cause, again appears in arms against Henry the Seventh, and escaping after the unsuccessful battle of Stoke, was drowned in attempting to ford the river Mersey at Ince, in order to pass to his house at the Hutt. Bacon, in his *History of King Henry VII*, states that he "swam over Trent on horseback, but

could not recover the farther side, by reason of the steepness of the bank, and so was drowned in the river ;" but as Bacon, from the context, appears to have known nothing of the circumstances of Lovel's death, it is probable that the former account is the true one, especially as we find, from the Manor Court records, extracts from which are given later on, that it was frequently the duty of the coroner to hold inquests on the bodies of persons who were drowned in attempting to ford the river at this point. Lord Lovel's estates, after his attainder, were granted by King Henry VII to his father-in-law, the Earl of Derby, whose descendants still enjoy them. The Irelands held the Manors of Hutte, Hale, Halebank and Halewood, in the reign of Elizabeth, from William, Earl of Derby, in free socage, by the annual tender of two roses on Midsummer-day.

(<sup>2</sup>) Sir John de Irelande left two sons. Thomas, the second son, was the head of the Irelands of Lydiate, *vide* p. 26. William, his third son, was head of the Irelands of Nostell, co. of York, where their family was buried.

(<sup>3</sup>) Seafton was the old spelling of Sefton.

(<sup>4</sup>) Thomas, second son of Thomas Irelande, was the founder of the branch of the Irelands of Bewsey and Warrington, *vide* p. 22.

(<sup>5</sup>) The Hale dinner bell still rings out its daily summons, though nearly three centuries old. It bears the initials "G I 1593 R<sup>d</sup>." engraved on it.

(6) John Ireland died *s. p.*, leaving a deed by which he made over his estates to his brother Gilbert, upon his marriage to Barbara, d. of George Legh, of High Legh, who married Elizabeth, another d. of Peter Leycester, of Tabley, and Elizabeth Colwick.

(7) The initials of Gilbert and Barbara Ireland are cut in two oak panels in Hale Church—"G I B I 1615."

(8) Sir Gilbert Ireland (No. 21), M.P. for Liverpool, was a strong adherent of Oliver Cromwell, by whom he was made Governor of Chester Castle, and was knighted for his services to Government. Sir Gilbert died seized of Hale, Halewood, in part Garston, part of Great Woolton, Penketh, Tarbock, in Lancashire; and of Bebbington, Crowton, Kingsley, Bradley, Milton, Cuddington, Newton, Leigh, Frodsham, Weaverham, and Stenthorpe, in Cheshire.

Some particulars of Sir Gilbert Ireland, out of the many that were left of his doings, may not be out of place here. "He was left a minor with his mother at an early age. He was a man of the greatest hospitality, and was Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Lancaster. He was very haughty and stately, fond of elections, and contested the borough of Liverpool more than once, representing that borough from 1656 to his death in 1675."

Sir Gilbert left his estates in commission for 31 years, partly to pay the debts in which his unbounded hospitality had greatly involved him; and partly because he was offended that his sister and heir,

Eleanor Aspinwall, widow, had married a Puritan minister (one Crompton). One of the lawyers who drew up the will ventured to say, "even 20 years was too long a time." He said, "No; it is my will, and not yours, that the estates be sequestered for 30 years."

The commissioners appointed by him were Henry Legh, of High Legh; Richard, his son; T. Case, of Red Hazels; T. Wright, of Crompton; John Cook, of Bewsey; Thos. Wright, of Widnes; with full powers of leasing (without being accountable) and of selling the estates in Cheshire.

Sir Gilbert had three sisters and one brother.

Barbara, b. 1621, d. young.

Eleanor, b. 1622, m. E. Aspinwall, and inherited Hale.

George, b. 1628, d. young.

Martha, b. 1632, m. Bramhall.

(<sup>9</sup>) Ireland and Mary Green, great nieces of Sir Gilbert Ireland, from whom Ireland, the eldest, inherited Hale in right of her mother, being offered the right of choice. She married, in 1752, Thomas Blackburne, of Orford and Newton, and died at Hale, 1795.

Mary (who died at Hale 1799) inherited Childwall, in right of her father, and married Bamber Gascoyne, who was the only son of Sir Crisp Gascoyne, Lord Mayor of London in 1753, and who held the office of Receiver-General of His Majesty's Customs, was one of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and Verderer of Waltham

Forest, Essex. His two sons successively represented Liverpool in the House of Commons in an unbroken line for fifty-two years. Through the eldest son, Bamber, Childwall passed to the family of Salisbury of Hatfield, by marriage of the 2nd Marquis of Salisbury with Fanny Gascoyne, his only daughter and sole heiress.

## COLLATERAL FAMILIES.

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### CHRONICLE OF

### IRELANDS OF HALEWOOD, BEWSEY, AND WARRINGTON,

*Branching off from Thomas Ireland, of Hutt and Hale,  
1589.*

1. Thomas Ireland, Gent. = Margery, d. of — Whitby,  
     (called Genevosus),      of Ince.  
     second son of  
     Thomas Ireland, of  
     Hale. 1589.
  
2. William Ireland,<sup>(1)</sup> 1599 = Elena, d. of — de Carye,  
     called John in one      of Lancashire.  
     deed.
  
3. 1st Margaret, d. = Robert Ireland = 2nd. Blanche,  
     of Richard Fox      d. of William  
     of Broughton.      Knowles, of  
                                     Denbigh.
  
4. George Ireland      = Elizabeth, d. of H. Loney,  
                                     of Ditton.

5. John's Ireland. He = Susanna, d. of Henry  
left two sons. Mackwilliam, armiger,  
and relict of Thomas  
Pemberton, Lord of  
Bewsey and Baron of  
Warrington.
6. Thomas Ireland,<sup>(2)</sup> Knt. = 1st. Margaret Pope, from  
of Bewsey, Baron of whom he was divorced.  
Warrington. 1617. Their son, Robert, mar-  
ried Elizabeth Banks,  
of Winstanley. Died  
before his father.  
= 2nd. Margaret, d. of Sir  
Thomas Aston, of Aston  
and relict of A. Main-  
waring.
7. Thomas Ireland,<sup>(3)</sup> of = Margaret, d. of Thomas  
Baldwys. Buried at Gray's Inn and Bew-  
Warrington, 1639. sey, second son of Sir  
Thomas Ireland. d.  
1638.
8. Margaret Ireland, d. = Sir Gilbert Ireland, of  
and sole heiress of of Hutt, Hale, &c. Died  
Thomas Ireland, of April 30th, 1675. *Vide*  
Bewsey. d. July 1st, p. 14.  
1675.

## NOTES.

(<sup>1</sup>) William, called elsewhere John, left the Mylne acre to his younger son, Thomas, in 14th Henry VII, 1499, and thence proceeds the family of the Irelands of Halewood, which ended in the Finches of Halewood, who had a burial place in the chancel of Hale Church.

(<sup>2</sup>) Before attaining his knighthood, Thomas Ireland, as appears from several deeds still preserved at Hale Hall, made very extensive purchases of land, &c., at Warrington, and paid for them what would be very large sums at the time. The deeds bearing his name commence in 1598 and continue till 1624. In 1612 he purchased the Manor or Lordship of Warrington, as will be seen from the following abstract:—

10 Jac.	{	By indenture enrolled.
17 Feb.		Edward Hall and John Nutvill, for £1,000, convey to Thomas Ireland all the Manor or Lordship of Warrington and all the estate therein, to hold, to the said Thomas Ireland in fee.

He became Chamberlaine of Chester, entertained James I. at Bewsey, and by him he was knighted.



The Lordship of Warrington did not long remain in the Ireland family, as they appear to have sold it in 1631 to the Earl of Warrington, from whose heiress, Lady Stamford, John Blackburne, of Orford and Hale, bought it in 1756.



### IRELANDS OF LYDIATE.

Lydiate is ten miles north of Liverpool, in the parish of Halsall. The Lords of Lydiate have been successively Lydiate, Blackburne, Ireland, Anderton, and Blundell.

1. Thomas Ireland, second son of Sir John de Ireland, of Hutt, Hale, and part Bebbington, and Margaret, his wife, d. of Halsall, Lord of Halsall, was the first of the Irelands of Lydiate, 1401.

Thomas Ireland, = Agnes Blakeborne, filia second son of Sir John de Ireland, of Hutt, Hale, &c.	et sola her., Roberti de Blakeborne, of Lydiate
--	--

2. Lawrence Ireland, = Catherine, d. of Henry  
 Lord of Garston and Blundell, of Little  
 Lydiate, died 1458. Crosby.

3. John Ireland, 1514. = Beatrix, d. of William Norris, of Speke.
4. George Ireland, 1523. = Isabella Nowell, of Read.
5. Lawrence Ireland, = Anne, d. of John Cross, died 1566. of Chorley.
6. 1st. Margaret, = William Ireland = 2nd. Eleanor, d. of T. Torbuk. d. of Roger Molineux, of Hawksey.
7. Lawrence Ireland. = Anne or Margaret, d. of Edward Scarisbrick, of Scarisbrick.
8. Edward Ireland. = Margaret, d. of Sir Edward Norreys, of Speke, Knt. of the Bath.
- Anne Ire- = John Harrington, of Huyton, s. p.  
land.
- Margaret = Sir Charles Anderton, of Lostock and of Lydiate by his marriage.

Sir James Anderton, of Lostock, first Bart., left two sons, Sir Charles, second Bart., as above, and

Sir James, third Bart., whose son, Sir Lawrence, died 1724. Sir Francis, fifth and last Bart., who favoured the Pretender, was attainted and his estates sequestered for his life time, or till he had a son. He died 1760, and was buried at Halsall, and the estate passed into the Blundell family through the marriage of Charles Blundell with Margaret, daughter of Hugh Anderton, of Euxton and Lostock, a younger branch of the family. Charles Blundell, of Ince, Lydiate, and Lostock, willed his inheritance to the Weld family.



PEDIGREE OF  
THE AMERICAN IRELANDS,

*Who branched off from Hale, settled in Ireland, 1633,  
and finally in America.*

1. Gilbert Ireland, High=Barbara, d. of George  
Sheriff for Lancaster Legh, of High Legh.  
co., 1623. Obit 1626.

Their second son, George, was father to

2. William Ireland,=Margaret de Courcy, d.  
settled near Athy. and heiress of Alme-  
ricus, 23rd Lord of  
Kinsale.

3. De Courcy Ireland.=1st. Miss Moore, of Moore  
Castle.  
2nd. Miss Blanchfield, of  
co. Kilkenny,

4. William Ireland, died=Elizabeth, d. of Sir  
1701. Thomas Franklyn, of  
Blackrock.

5. De Courcy Ireland.=Jane, d. of W. Popham,  
of Popham, co. of  
Limerick.

6. John Ireland. =Anna Maria, d. of H.  
Austen, co. of Cork.

7. Mr. Ireland, High=Jane, d. of John Busteed,  
Sheriff of co. Cork, of Blackrock, co. Cork.  
1749.

8. 1st.Fair Atkins=John Ireland=2nd. Judith Law-  
niece of David entered the rence, d. of Jona-  
Sears, Boston, BritishNavy than Lawrence,  
Mass., d. 1788. and came to of New York,  
America on Member of the  
board the Provincial Con-  
" Glasgow " gress of 1744, and  
man-of-war, son of the framer  
LordHowe's of the first consti-  
Squadron. tution of New  
Appointed York State.  
Commissary  
General to the Navy. d. 1836.

9. John Ireland, b. 1796=Mary Floyd, d of Colonel  
John Busteed. Nicoll Floyd, and  
Horatio. grand-daughter of  
William Busteed. General Lloyd, who  
Louisa Anna. signed the Declaration  
Richard. of Independence, a

Cornelia Ruth.  
Andrew.

member of the early  
Congresses from 1744  
to 1791.

10. John Busteed Ireland, .  
died unmarried 1872.  
In Diplomacy. He  
visited Hale 1858.

*From notes furnished by Col. Ireland, of Scarron Lake,  
United States, 1858.*

## RECORD OF THE BLACKBURNES.

*From the time of Queen Elizabeth; vide Page 97  
for earlier particulars.*

William Blackburne came out of Yorkshire and settled at Garstang, near the original home of his ancestors, towards the end of the sixteenth century, and, in connection with his brother Richard, bought Newton. William's son

Richard Blackburne,	= Jane, d. of John Aynes-
of Scorton Hall, near	worth, of Newton, Lanc.
Garstang, of Thistleton,	
and lastly of Newton.	

Thomas Blackburne,	= Margaret, d. of Robert
of Orford and Newton,	Norris, of Bolton, younger
d. 1663.	branch of the Speke fami-
	ly of Norreys.

Jonathan Blackburne,	= 1st. Anne, d. of Thomas
of Orford, Newton and	Lever, of Chamber Hall,
Eccleston, d. 1725 ;	widow of C. Lockwood,
buried at Winwick.	and grandmother of B. B.
	Wilson.
	2nd. Bridget, d. of Brom-
	field, of Little Leigh, co.
	of Chester.





ORFORD HALL.





GARDENS AND CEDAR TREE AT ORFORD.



John Blackburne, <sup>(1)</sup> Lord of the Manor of Warrington, d. 1786, ætat 93.	= Catherine, d. of W. Ashton, rector of Prestwich, sister and co-heir, of Dorothy, wife to Sir Darcy Lever and aunt to Sir Ashton Lever.
---	--

Thomas Blackburne, died before his father, January, 1768. <i>Cont.</i> p. 16.	= Ireland, d. of Isaac Greene of Childwall. She inherited Hale through her mother, who was niece and heir of Sir Gilbert Ireland, married at Hale, 1752, obit. 1795.
---	---

## NOTE.

(<sup>1</sup>) John Blackburne, of Orford and Newton, b. 1693, was a man of great cultivation, and encourager of the arts and sciences. He grew the first pine-apple that was cultivated in England, and the pine stove is introduced into the picture of him by Dance, in commemoration of the fact.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PRINCIPAL PICTURES AT HALE HALL.

### *On Staircase.*

The Blackburne Family Picture, by Winstanley,  
1741. Dimensions, 18 ft. by 9 ft. 2 in.

John Blackburne, of Orford and Newton, buried  
at Winwick, 1786.

Catherine (Assheton), his wife.

Thomas Blackburne, afterwards of Hale, b. 1720,  
d. 1768.

Jonathan (2nd son), b. 1721, d. 1786.

John (3rd son), b. 1723.

William (4th son).

Ann,<sup>1</sup> collector of Hale Museum.

Mary, d. young.

Asheton<sup>2</sup> (5th son).

An Infant (d. young).

<sup>1</sup> Ann was an eminent naturalist and botanist, and corresponded with Linnæus in latin ; she collected the stuffed birds now at Hale. John Reinhold Foster, who circumnavigated the world with Capt. Cook, perpetuated her name in the botanical world by naming the *Blackburnia Pinita* after her, and Pennant has equally distinguished her in the animal kingdom by naming the American warbler, *Sylvia Blackburnia*, after her. She died at Fairfield 1793.

<sup>2</sup> Asheton Blackburne died in America 1787, and was buried at the Episcopal Chapel of Nouwalk, 60 miles from New York. The church had been lately rebuilt, and was the first that was consecrated by the first bishop sent out from England to America.



FAMILY PICTURE OF J. BLACKBURNE OF ORFORD AND NEWTON, 1641.





## THE ASSHETON PICTURE.

The more ancient family picture of the Ashetons of Chadderton (date 1539) was brought to Hale by Catherine Ashton (in the seventh generation from the subject of the painting, James Ashton) on her marriage with John Blackburne, of Orford and Newton, about 1726.

The shield of arms in the picture identify it incontestably with the aforesaid James Ashton, and Agnes his wife, daughter of Charles Mainwaring, of Croston, co., of Chester, and their family. He was son of Edmund Ashton, of Chadderton, and Janet, his wife, daughter and co-heir of Sir James Harrington, of Westlee, co. of Lancaster, and of Wolfage in Brixworth, co. of Northampton, in right of whom he inherited her estates during his father's lifetime, thereby accounting for the quartering of her arms, and the introduction of the shrine to her memory in the picture, which was painted by Ferdinand Radcliffe, 1539.

The costumes are those of the Tudor period.

The subjects of it—

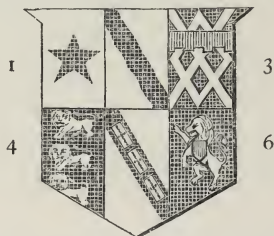
James Ashton, son of Edm. Ashton, of Chadderton (who married Janet, daughter and co-heir of Sir James Harrington, of Westlee, co. of Lancaster, and of Wolfage, in Brixworth);

His wife, Agnes, and their family, of which latter it is probable, that only the sons, who lived to grow up, and the daughters, who married, were painted.

1. Lewis, died *s. p.*
2. Edmund, second son and heir to his father, aged 27 when he inherited. Married Anne, daughter of Richard Prestwich.
3. Peter, married daughter of Robert Price, of Walkingham, near Boroughbridge.
4. Richard.
5. Jane, married Richard Wolrich, of Lincoln.
6. Anne, married Francis Hargreaves, of Boston.
7. Elizabeth, married Thomas Barnet, of Cambridge.

Besides the representation of a canopied tomb, or shrine, in the upper part of the picture there is also

*Assheton Quarterings in the Picture.*



- |                        |                          |                            |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| <sup>1</sup> Ashton ;  | <sup>2</sup> Radcliffe ; | <sup>3</sup> Flarrington ; |
| <sup>4</sup> English ; | <sup>5</sup> Urswick ;   | <sup>6</sup> Verdun.       |

painted a coat of arms, consisting of six quarterings, Ashton-Radcliffe (omitting Chadderton and Talbot), Harrington, English, Urswick, and Verdun, omitting again Bradshaw, which brings in Verdun. The Harrington quarterings having been brought in by the marriage of James's father, Edmund Ashton, through his wife, Janet, accords with the



FAMILY PICTURE OF THE ASSHETONS, 1539.



omission of the exclusively Ashton quarterings ; and as the picture had been painted during the lifetime of his father, Edmund, who died in 1543, he could only quarter that portion of Sir James Harrington's arms which came to him through his mother. These arms, in juxtaposition with the representation of an Altar Tomb, or Shrine of white marble, under a canopy of the same, and on which lies a recumbent female figure, lead still more clearly to the identification of the picture.

The kneeling figure, with his hands upraised in prayer, at the lower end of the monument, is a living priest, accounted for by a clause in the will of Sir James Harrington, 1497, in which he appointed " a priest for ever to pray for the souls of himself and daughters in the Parish Church (of Brixworth), to be provided by Lady Isabella Harrington, his widow, and his other executors." The obligation of finding a priest to pray for the souls of Sir James and his ten daughters devolved on James Ashton, on coming into his mother's property after the death of his grandmother, Lady Isabella Harrington, and he thus commemorates it. Janet and her nine sisters, of whom she was the seventh, and only survivor, became co-heirs of their father, by the death of his only son, who, in returning from Trafford with his bride (a daughter of that house), perished in attempting to ford the Mersey, near Northenden, on the day of his marriage. "*Submersus cum uxor.*" *Lanc. MSS.* vol. XIII.

The following account of the Ashton Descent from

1539 till it merged into Blackburne of Orford, through the female line in Catherine Ashton, is extracted from the Blackburne Pedigree, and identifies the arms in the picture.

Edmund Ashton, <sup>(1)</sup> of = Janet, d. and co-heir of Chadderton, seized of lands in Chadderton and Shuttleworth, died 1543.	Sir James Harrington, of Westlee, Lancashire, and of Wolfage-in-Brixworth, Northamptonshire.
--	--

James Ashton ( <i>tempus</i> Edward VI.) inherited his mother's property at her death and during his father's lifetime, died 1550. He was 48 when his father died.	= Agnes, d. of Ch. Mainwaring, of Croston, co. of Chester.
--	--

Edmund, second son of James, aged 27 at his father's death.	= Ann, d. of Ralph Prestwich, of Hulme.
---	---

Richard Ashton (3rd son but eventual heir)	= Ann, d. of Henry Whitaker, of Falkinhurst.
--	--

<sup>1</sup> Edmund Ashton had a second son, Richard, and a daughter, Margaret, who married Charles Radcliffe, of Todmorden. Their son, Ferdinand Radcliffe, was esteemed a great painter.

Edmund Ashton = Dorothy, d. of Robert  
Dukinfield, of Dukin-  
field.

James Ashton, of Chad- = Katherine, d. of John  
derton, Esq. Greenhalgh, of Brande-  
some, co. of Lancaster.

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4
Edmund Ashton, of Chadderton, obt. 1664. Gent. of Bedchamber to D. of York, Lieut. in the Guards. d. unm.	John, killed in a duel. d. unm. James. Richard.			William, rector of Prestwich, m., 1685, Martha, d. of Stephen Gey, vicar of Whalley. d. 1781.	Dorothy.	Mary.	Katherine.	Anne.

James, Catherine = John Black- Dorothy = Darcy  
died burne, of Lever,  
young. Orford and LL.D.  
Newton, of Ack-  
from rington  
whom descend the Blackburnes, now of Hale Hall.

Mary Blackburne, 1847. By Buckner. d. of Sir  
Henry Bold Hoghton, and wife of Colonel Ireland  
Blackburne.



Colonel Ireland Blackburne, 1874. By Archer. 8 ft. by 4 ft. 11 in. (Presented to him by the 4th Royal Lancashire Militia, of which he was colonel.)

Thomas Blackburne, obit 1768.

Isaac Green, of Childwall, credited to Hogarth. 4 ft. 10 in. by 4 ft. 1 in.

The Four Philosophers, after Rubens. Justus Lipsius, Grotius, Philip Rubens (his secretary) and Peter Paul Rubens himself. Seneca's bust.

The Triumph of Truth over Sin; or, St. Michael the Archangel. After Guido.

The Childe of Hale. Full length and size of life. *Vide* p. 51.

Bust (in bronze) of Lord Sidmouth, and casts of Duke of Gloucester, and John Blackburne, M.P., 1807, on the stairs and anteroom.

*Pictures in the Dining Room.*

Ann Blackburne. Romney. 4 ft. 10 in. by 4 ft. d. of S. Rodbard, of Evercreech, Somersetshire. 1784.

John Blackburne, M.P. for Lancashire, of Hale, Orford and Newton. Romney. 4 ft. 10 in. by 4 ft.

John Blackburne, of Orford and Newton, grandfather of the above, by Dance. 4 ft. by 3 ft. 2 in.

Thomas Brooke. Gainsborough. 4 ft. 9 in. by 3 ft. 10 in.

Lord Strafford, the night before his execution, and his secretary, a Mainwaring of Poever. After Vandyke.



*Pictures in the Library.*

John Blackburne, M.P., 1803, by Allen, 1803 (of which there is a Copy by Mrs. Brooke).

John Ireland, who d. 1633.

Elizabeth, his wife, d. of Thos. Heyes.

Sir Gilbert Ireland, d. 1675. Of him there is a replica in his room.

*In the Drawing Room.*

Ireland Blackburne, of Hale, d. 1795. Hudson. 4 ft 10 in. by 3 ft. 11 in.

Mary Gascoyne, of Childwall. She died at Hale, 1799. Hudson. 4 ft. 10 in. by 3 ft. 11 in.  
(Co-heiresses and great nieces of Sir Gilbert Ireland).

Dorothea Ireland Blackburne. 1875. Archer. 6 ft. 4½ in. by 4 ft. 7½ in.

Emily Antrobus. 1875. Archer. 6 ft. 4½ in. by 4 ft. 7½ in.

(Daughters of Colonel Ireland Blackburne.)

*Miniatures.*

John Blackburne, of Orford and Newton, d. 1786, and his three sons ;

Thomas, who married the Ireland heiress and died 1768.

Jonathan.

John.

Ann Blackburne and her youngest son, Gilbert. Mrs. Mee, 1800.

Group of her four elder children. Ireland, after-

wards of Hale; Mary, married George Legh, of High Legh; Anna, married Edwin Corbett, of Darnhall; Elizabeth, died unmarried. Mrs. Mee, 1790.

Harriot Blackburne. Mrs. Mee, 1799.

Anna Bamford, on a patch box. By Cosway.

Isaac Blackburne (set in pearls), her brother. Cosway.

Sir Gilbert Ireland, during the Protectorate.

Ann Blackburne, daughter of Mrs. Bamford of Bamford. Hargreaves, 1824.

Mary Bamford (her sister), afterwards Lady Pigot. Hargreaves, 1825.

Charles II, set in brilliants, presented, with a pendant of Nell Gwyn (lost), by the D. of Gloucester as a pair of clasps, to Mrs. Blackburne, of Hale, 1806, when in command of the northern district during a time of riots in Lancashire.

Madame de Montespan, in black ebony frame.

### *Inferior Miniatures.*

Matilda, Queen of Denmark, sister to George III, wife of Christian VII.

Christian VII, King of Denmark. From originals that were destroyed in the Frederichsborg Palace when it was burnt to the ground in 1859.

The Pretender and the Duke of York. Given to the Mr. Bamford of that day in return for his concealing the Pretender at Bamford for a night on his retreat from Derby, 1745.

Mary, Queen of Scots.

ACCOUNT OF THE *SABAL*  
*BLACKBURNIA*. (HALE PALM TREE.)

This Palm was presented, when a small plant, to John Blackburne by Lord Petre (a connection of his by marriage) in the year 1737, and received its name of *Blackburnia* in commemoration of him (he was an excellent naturalist, who cultivated many exotic plants in his delightful garden at Orford, in Lancashire); and also of his daughter Anne, who was an ardent lover of botany, and a diligent collector of birds, insects, and testacea. So indefatigable was she in her favourite pursuits, that she studied and acquired a knowledge of Latin, in order to enable her to correspond with Linnæus.

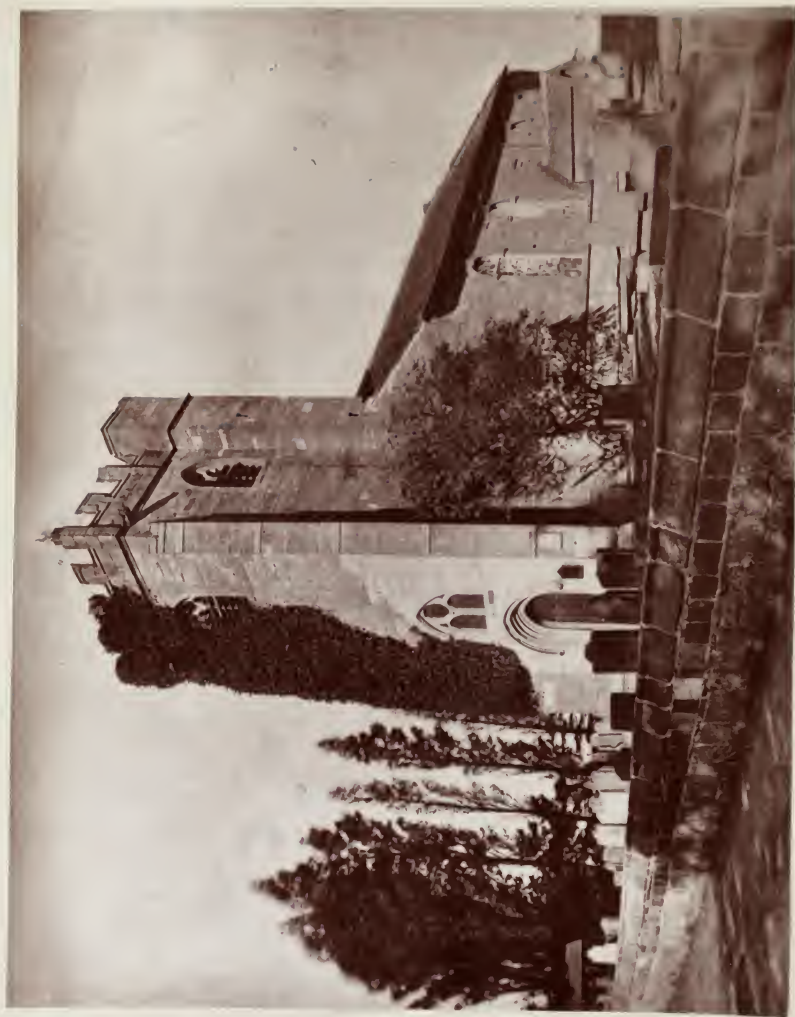
The Palm remained at Orford till 1817, when it was removed to Hale, and the flowering of what was popularly called the "Great Palm" at Hale, in 1818, excited very great interest, and it continued to flower and fruit annually, with the exception of one year, to its death in May, 1859. In 1815 the insertion of the lower leaf was only two feet from the ground, and at the last it measured five feet in circumference, and thirty-four in height. It was the only one of its growth and size that has

flowered and fruited in Europe. The flower, in growth and colouring, resembled that of the vine; the fruit (though from the size of a large seed or stone having a more solid consistency) also resembled the shape, growth, and colouring of bunches of black grapes. It came to Lord Petre unclassified and unnamed, and was supposed to be a *Coryphua Umbra-califera* till it flowered, when, being an unknown specimen of palm, it was called as above, *Sabal Blackburnia*. Of two seedlings grown in 1824 by Mr. Nickson, the gardener at Hale, one is now in possession of the Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth, and the other at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham.

The earlier details of this highly prized and much admired tree have been extracted from Loudon's *Gardener's Magazine*, with occasional notes from Reinhold Forster.

The Palm Tree withered and died in 1859, either from age, or from being lowered too deep in the ground. Its trunk is now in the Museum of the Royal Gardens at Kew, where it gives but a dim notion of what its dimensions were in the full spread of its growth and beauty.





HALE CHURCH.

## HALE CHURCH.

St. Mary's Church, Hale, was originally a chapelry in the parish of Childwall; it is now a vicarage, and is of very old standing.

Johannes de Hibernia, who was buried there in 1088, built the chancel, which fact was inscribed on the windows of the Old Chapel, as appears from the following notes.

In an old fragment of "Noats collected by Thomas Chalenor," we find the following record of John de Irelande (Johannes de Hibernia), *vide* p. 12, who built the chancel of Hale Church, 1081, and was buried there in 1088.

"Anno dni 1592.

Thomas Chalenor's booke, of Chester, Bridge St. Studient of the laws of arms and armory—a book of sundry and divers noats of evidences; of tymes and wytnesses in Cheshire, Lancashire, and Wales, &c., Leafe 6.

Lichefeldie qui istam Cantavian

pmo            dni John de Irlond militi

rd            dni millimo octogecio primo.

These words I found written in a peece of glasse in Hale Chappell wyndowe, in Countie of Lan-

caster. Some peece of the glasse was broken or ever I cam to the taking down of yt, but as it is now in the glasse I have Imytated yt, lre by lre.\* yt is now in the keeping of Mr. John Ireland, of the Hutt, 1590. pr. Thomas Chalenor."

Adam Ireland, of Hale, built a new aisle in 1308, and restored the stained glass windows. Sir John Irelande was buried there in 1401.

John Irelande was buried there in 1462, to whose memory a monument was raised, on which we find this inscription :—

" Hic jacet Joh<sup>ns</sup> Yerlond armiger, qui fuit dns de Hale et dimid villæ de Bebinton inferioris qui obiit Sedo die Maij ano dni mcccc sexagesima sedo cujus aie propicietur deus. Amen."

On Sir Gilbert Ireland's black marble tomb we find,

" Sir Gilbert Ireland, Knt., M.P.

obiit 1675, ætat 51,

Ultimus Domus. Fiat voluntas Dei,"

which may be translated thus—"The last of his house. God's will be done."

In 1412 Pope John XXIII, for the conservation of a chauntry that had been built to the church by John Leyot, Dean of Chester, Rector of Bangor, Parson of Malpas and Dinforth, issued an indulgence, or brief, which is still in existence at Hale Hall, and of which there is a translation in Gregson's *Fragments of Lancashire*. Some lines of the origi-

\* Letter by letter.



nal have been intentionally obliterated, relating to the mention of prayers for the dead, probably in the time of the Commonwealth; Sir Gilbert Ireland being a zealous puritan and a personal friend of Oliver Cromwell.

The body of the church, as it now stands, was built in 1758, having been, according to tradition, a black and white (ruddle and daub) appendage to the old tower, at which time traces of the very early burial places above mentioned seem to have been lost.

The church was renovated and refitted by Colonel Ireland Blackburne in 1874, when the old entrance was restored, and the west door was reopened through the old tower, which had been turned into a vestry at the rebuilding of the present body of the church, 1758.

In 1814 a new peal of six bells was given to Hale Church, on one of which, presented by Mr. Watkins, agent to the Hale property, is engraven, "Church and King—John Watkins, Ditton, 1814."

Hale Chapelry having been in the Parish of Childwall till within the last ten years (when it became an independent vicarage), seems to have depended often on the services of the curate of the parish church (some seven miles distant), in the absence of a resident chaplain, which accounts for the difficulty in procuring a regular list of the officiating priests after John Leyot.

The notes from the old Court Book in the Ireland

MSS. which contains the customs of the manor, give some characteristic memoranda about Leyot, who appears to have been a thorn in the side of William Ireland, who wrote the account of the manor, from which we shall give extracts.

The following was the inscription on Leyot's tombstone in the Chancel of Hale Church, which was removed when the Chapel was rebuilt in 1758:—

“Hic jacet mag<sup>o</sup> Johes Leyot, Decretors Baccalarius Decanus Cestr. Rector Ecclia de Malpas et Bangor qui primo liberam sepulturam a summo Pontifici Urbano Sexto: sumptibus suis ppys in curia Romana impetravit anno dni. tempore Ricdi, et quicunque dixerit devote pro ejus anima pater noster et ave habitat ccc dies indulgentia ejus anima.

Pro sua anima propercet Deus. Amen.”\*

It is just probable that the tombstone of this turbulent priest was mislaid without difficulty, if not designedly, by those who were building the present body of the Church;—Thomas Blackburne and Ireland, his wife. Rev. Francis Ellison, chaplain.

In some notes on Hale Church in the Harleian

\* Here lies Master John Leyot, Bachelor of Decrees, Dean of Chester, Rector of the churches of Malpas and Bangor, who first obtained this free burial place from the Supreme Pontiff Alexander V, at his own cost, at the Court of Rome, A.D. 1400, *temp.* King Richard II. Whoever will say a pater noster and ask for the good of his soul may have 300 days of indulgence.

To his soul God be gracious. Amen.





HALE, WITH A VIEW OF THE CHURCH.

MSS. (folio 58, grants 52-3), we find that a market and fair were granted, 1304, 31 Edward I. The fair is held with the wakes, in August, but both have almost disappeared under the influences of more advanced civilisation or greater excitements.

## THE VILLAGE SCHOOL

was built by Mr. Part, who left money for a foundation, called Part's Charity, in 1739. It stands at the end of the village. Over the entrance door, facing up the village, the benefactor put an inscription.

"M. S. Hoc edificium Guglielmus Part, a longa majorum hujus pagi indigenarum oriundus suo solius impendii extravit consueque donavit anno S. H. 1739." Which may be translated as follows:—"Sacred to Memory, William Part, descended of an old race, long inhabitants of this village, built this edifice at his own sole expense, and endowed it in the year of human redemption, 1739."\*

In 1876 Colonel Ireland Blackburne rebuilt it as it was before, with the addition of a new and larger school house, and raised the funds for a higher class of education than heretofore, improving it into a modern and good school.

\* "M. S. is Sacred to Memory, S. H. is here used for *Salutio Hominum*, but I never saw it so used in a lapidary inscription."—W. BEAMONT.

## THE CHILDE OF HALE.

John Middleton, born 1578 in Hale, and buried in 1628, in Hale Churchyard, where his tombstone is still to be seen, was nine feet three inches in height. His measurements are thus given in Plot's History of Staffordshire:—"John Middleton, commonly called the 'Childe of Hale,' in Lancashire; his hand, from the carpus to the end of the middle finger, was 17 inches long; his palm  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches broad, and in height he wanted but six inches of the giant Goliath." His bones were taken up in 1768 by the schoolmaster and parish clerk of the day (Mr. Bushell), and the thigh bone (*os femoris*) was found to measure from the hip of a man of ordinary size to the ground. In 1617, Gilbert Ireland, the then possessor of Hale, took Middleton up to London, by invitation, to the court of King James the First, who had heard of him on his way through Lancashire from Scotland; there he wrestled with the King's wrestler, and put out his thumb, by which awkwardness he annoyed the courtiers and was sent back, the King giving him twenty pounds. He returned by Oxford, and Brazenose, being then a Lancashire college, he stayed there some days on the invitation of the students, and had the portrait

taken which is still to be seen in the buttery of that college, and the dimensions of his foot were cut on the stone of the cellar-steps. And to this day the Brazenose Eight-oar is called "The Childe of Hale," and appears annually at the Henley Regatta.

Likenesses of this English giant are also preserved at Hale Hall and at High Legh. The Childe of Hale's walking-stick, 4 feet 7 inches long, is to be seen in the ante-room at the latter place, with his portrait, size of life, on which is inscribed in a corner—"The portrait of John Middleton, Child of Hale, who was borne in the year 1578 A.D., and was buried in Hale, 1628."

Besides Plot's *Staffordshire*, there is further mention of the Childe of Hale in Baines's *History of Lancashire*, Gregson's *Fragments of Lancashire* (from which most of this description is taken) and in the Notes to 1 Samuel, xvii, 4, in Bagster's edition of the Bible.



## IRELAND MANUSCRIPTS AND OTHER CURIOSITIES.

Of the many valuable and ancient papers preserved with care in the Hale Library, "the first and chiefest" is the "Ireland Manuscript," transcribed by the Camden Society, 1842, from whose "Introduction to Three Early Metrical Romances," edited by John Robson, we extract the following:—

The origin of the early English Romances is still a subject of controversy, and likely to remain so. The ancient minstrels as a body were editors and publishers rather than original composers. The office of minstrel was neither that of poet, editor, actor, nor musician, but a compound of all. The internal evidence of some of the Metrical Romances goes far to prove that they were written in the cloister, and given to the minstrel to publish, *aut prece aut pretio*.

These three poems probably formed part of the stock of some individual of this by-gone profession, They have been apparently written from recitation. and are remarkable for the complete contrast of their matter, style, and diction; they are written in the same strong coarse hand, and, from the peculiar dialect, probably by a native of Lancashire. The first thing that strikes us in the poems themselves is the

Mary Gilbert Ireland  
Hale Library Copy  
Sells to Lib., 18 Dec 1945  
(1911)

extreme rudeness of the language, and the equal artlessness of the story; these circumstances, especially when connected with the fact of their popularity, which is shown by three copies written in the fifteenth century being yet in existence, are evidences of a very early origin. The external evidence as to the age of the poems is not of much importance.

There is internal argument for fixing the date of the poems prior to the assumption of the Scottish crown by Edward I, while the choice of a hero from the territory of Robert Bruce himself is certainly against the supposition of a later period. The costume, which is still more decisive, is, so far as can be traced, that of the end of the thirteenth century.

The first tale occupies fifteen folios, of which one or more appears to be missing,—“The Anturs<sup>1</sup> of Arther at the Tarne Wathelan.” The incidents in it are common-place, and the localities mentioned point to Cumberland, or Westmoreland, as the native soil of the author.

The second tale of “Sir Amadace” begins abruptly and extends over seventeen and a half folios. The metre is a good specimen of alliteration, combined with rhyme.

The third story, entitled “Avowyng<sup>2</sup> of King Arther, Sir Gawen, Sir Kaye, and Sir Bawdewyn, of Bretan,”<sup>3</sup> goes through twenty-four folios.

<sup>1</sup> Anturs—adventures.    <sup>2</sup> Avowyng—oath.

<sup>3</sup> That the Welsh were also called *Bretons*, we have the authority of Robert of Brunne.

The first poem may be considered as approaching to tragedy; "Sir Amadace," as a melodrama, and the "Avowyng" will serve not unfitly to represent the genteel comedy of the period to which it belongs.

The scene of "Antur" and the "Avowyng" is laid in Inglewood Forest. The Liddel Mote referred to in it is an ancient and strong fortification on the Lidd where it runs into the Eske.<sup>1</sup>

The volume contains also a number of documents connected with the Magna Curia of Hale of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. The remainder of the manuscript (twelve folios) contains a miscellaneous assortment of memoranda of events happening within the manor, as claims of wreck, waythes and strays, keel toll,<sup>2</sup> coroner's inquests (the Lord of Hale is still the coroner), ordinances, and a long list of the purchases and usurpations of Magister Johannes Leyot, of whom hereafter.<sup>3</sup> These are of various dates, from 3 to 14 Henry VI. In these entries William Ireland is often personally referred to. Some interesting extracts from these are given in the account of the "Manor of Hale."

Robert of Brunne speaks of a poet named Kendale,

<sup>1</sup> We give on the following page a few lines from each of the Romances, with a *facsimile* of the original, which, by the kind permission of the Committee of the Camden Society, we extract from their volume.

<sup>2</sup> The Lord of the Manor of Hale has to this day the right to demand "keel toll" on every vessel aground on his shores. He is entitled to carry away the anchor in case of refusal.

<sup>3</sup> See page 79.

and in the records of the Courts of Hale we find William Kendale, chaplain, who was living there at the commencement of the fifteenth century, at the time that William Ireland, to whom we owe the preservation of the manuscripts, came into possession of Hale, 1413. As the name Kendale points to a northern origin, and as the nature of the stanza suits well enough with the old chronicler's description, is it not possible that the manuscript may have belonged to, or have been written by, the officiating priest of the village of Hale?—perhaps a descendant of the ancient poet. For the following description of this manuscript we are also indebted to the Camden Society's volume:—

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE MANUSCRIPT.

The Ireland MS. is in quarto, written on a coarse parchment, with 21—24 lines in a page: there are neither illuminations nor ornamented capitals; and, although each tale is divided into *FITTES*, there is no punctuation of any kind, nor is there a title to any of the poems, except at the conclusion of *SIR AMADACE*.

The first tale begins at the top of a page, occupies fifteen folios, and ends at the bottom of a page; one folio, if not more, appears to be missing, and the tale of *SIR AMADACE*, which begins abruptly, extends over 17½ folios, ending on the second page of the eighteenth. The third story commences in the same page as the second concludes, goes through 24 folios, and thirteen lines of the next page; then follows a blank folio,





## THE ANTURS OF ARATHER.

## XL.

Thenne Syr Gauan the gode was graythet in grene,  
 With his griffuns of gold engrelet fulle gay,  
 Trowlt with trulofes, and tranest be-twene;  
 Opon a startand stede he strikes oute of stray.  
 The tother in his turnyng, he talkes tille him in tene,  
 And sayd, "Querto draues thou so dre3ghe, and  
 mace suche deray?"  
 He sqwapputte him in at the squyre, with a squird  
 kene,  
 That greuut Sir Gauan euer tille his dethe day.

## SIR AMADACE.

## I.

Thenne the knyy3t and the stuard fre,  
 Thay casten there houe hit best my3te be  
 Bothe be ferre and nere;  
 The stuard sayd, "Sir, 3e awe wele more,  
 Thenne 3e may of 3our londus rere,  
 In faythe this seuyn 3ere.

## THE AVOWYNGE OF KING ARATHER.

## I.

He that made vs on the mulde,  
 And fair fourmet the folde,  
 Atte his wille, as he wold;  
 The see, and the sande;  
 Giffe hom joy, that wille here,  
 Of du3ti men, and of dere.





and the rest of the volume (40 folios) consists of records and memoranda of the court of Hale.

These records have evidently been inserted at various times, and apparently by William Irland, Lord of the Manor of Hale during the reigns of Henry V and VI and at the beginning of Edward IV. A careful examination has satisfied me that the first five folios after the poems, were left blank by the original transcriber of these *excerpta*, who began his labours with a pentameter,

“Assit principio Sancta Maria meo. .

“Curia de Hale in principio Rotuli, tenta ibidem die martis proximo post festum Sancti Michaelis, anno regni regis Ricardi secundi tercio decimo, et super dorsum ejusdem Rotuli, pro tak. Roberti Diconson, pro tribus porcis, iijd.”

To this is appended a marginal note in another hand. “Respice bene de tak Roberti Dicunson, quia aula Johannes Leyot fuit quondam tenementum dicti Roberti.” It appears from various entries, that John Leyot, Dean of Chester, Rector of Malpas and Denforth, and Vicar of Hale, obtained possession of various lands and buildings, and disputed the manorial rights; he died, as is stated in one of the memoranda, 6 Henry VI, before which this note must have been written. The following page begins “ROTULO VI<sup>o</sup> DE FESTO NATALIS DOMINI, ANNO RICARDI QUARTO DECIMO;” and contains excerpts from various Rolls, which are specified, but without date. In the eleventh page we have “NUNC INCIPIT QUAD-

RAGESIME ANNO REGNI REGIS HENRICI QUARTI SEXTO. ROTULO XI<sup>o</sup> ROTUL. PARGAMENE." In page 14 we find "Modo incipit Tractatus parvi quaterni," with dates of the 16th, 17th, and 19th of Richard II, and receipt of rents of the 16th and 17th, and a heryot of the 18th year of the same monarch. The extracts from this Parvus Quaternus fill nearly six folios, and are divided into seventy sections; one only is of a later date, and this, with the concluding sections, is as follows :—

"LXVII. Adam del Colcotes Ballivus libertatis Manerii de Hale narravit Willielmo Irland, domino dicti Manerii, anno regis Henrici quinti quinto, quod Thomas Layet perquesivit terras et tenementa de etc. quondam terræ Johannis le Hayre; et similiter perquesivit terras de Cecilia Shipman, et Margeria sorore sua, et illa; et terre predicte simul jacent; et pro tenementis Cecilie, ut de redditu, solvit domino. Ideo querendum est.

LXVIII. Thomas Layet, quia pandoxavit semel, *ijd.* Et quia concealavit le fowundynge pot, *ijjd.*

Item, idem Thomas Layet valde juxta, viz. duodecim pro tol de uno pullo, *ijd.* stat super idem latus folii et ibi bene loquitur de tol.

LXVIII. Thomas Layet pro sex porcis appreciatis *ixs.* in eodem loco similiter fit de aliis, ut patet ibidem.

LXX. Item de tenementis Johannis de Irland de bovat' quondam Roberti de Chester per totum annum, *vjd. ob. quad.*

Deo eodem Johanne pro tenement. in Redale, *iiijd.*

Deo eodem Johanne pro tenement. in Morecote, viz. quinque quadrantes *vd.*

De eodem Johanne pro tenement. Ranulphi Hancockson per Cartam annuatim de proprio concessio, *xixd. ob.*

De eodem Johanne pro tenement. quandam David patris sui, *iiij s.* et ista Recordacio stat in ultimo fine parvi quaterni super parvum folium. Jam parvus quaternus fenitur.

Nunc incipiunt Rotuli Antiqui de papiro scripto, qui sunt quinque de numero.

LXXI<sup>o</sup>. Curia de Hale tenta ibidem die Lune in septimana de Quasimodo, anno regis Ricardi Secundi xij<sup>o</sup>."

Copies of other paper rolls of the reign of Henry IV follow ; the first in his eleventh, the second in his fourth year. The third entry, with a date, is

"LXXVIII<sup>o</sup>. Johannes le Clerke queritur de Ricardo Brugge de placito, eo quod predictus Ricardus debet et injuste detinet servitium factum pro duobus annis de Officio hayward, anno regis Ricardi Secundi xxij<sup>o</sup> et anno regis Henrici Quarti primo, ad damnum *iijs. iiijd.* Et defend. negat, et ponit se ad patriam, per quam quer. recuperet *vjd.* et predictus Ricardus in misericordia.

Feniti sunt Rotuli, qui sunt quinque de numero.

Nunc incipit Tractatus parvorum Rotulorum de extractis, undecim de numero."

These excerpts follow an inverse order, beginning

with the eleventh roll, 1 Henry IV, and ending with the first, at the 86th chapter. They are followed by the receipt of Rents at the Annunciation term, 1 Henry V, and at Martinmas 4 Henry IV.

The next series of documents has every appearance of having been entered about the period of their respective dates. They are full and particular records of the proceedings, fines, presentations, appointment of officers, and list of the Juries of the Courts of Hale as follows:—

- “ Tuesday after the Conception, 14 Henry IV.
- Tuesday after the Annunciation, 1 Henry V.
- Thursday, St. Wilfrid, 1 Henry V.
- Monday before St. Andrew, 1 Henry V.
- Monday after the Annunciation, 2 Henry V.
- Tuesday after St. Wilfrid, 2 Henry V.
- Monday after St. Martin, 2 Henry V.
- Thursday St. Martin, 3 Henry V.
- Wednesday eve of St. Luke, 3 Henry V.
- Tuesday before St. Andrew, 3 Henry V.
- Wednesday before St. Margaret, 4 Henry V.
- Thursday after St. Catharine, 4 Henry V.”

As a specimen it will be sufficient to give the last of these entries:—

“ Curia de Hale tenta ibidem die Jovis proximo post festum Sancte Katerine virginis anno regni regis Henrici Quinti quarto.

“ Inquisitio capta ex officio per sacramentum Willielmi Hogesone, Thome Penultone, Galfridi de Penultone, Henrici de Bruge, Rogeri Robynson,

Willielmi de Torbok, Ricardi Henrysone, Johannis Clerke, Johannis del Crosse, Roberti de Wysewalle, Willielmi de Speke, Roberti Gille, Jurat. dicunt quod Robertus Gille ienvenit (invenit) j swarme, et stat in orto Willielmi Speke. Henricus Poghdene pro consimili in orto suo. Willielmus de Thornetone pro consimili in orto suo. Item Jurati dicunt quod Thomas Layot<sup>e</sup> obstupasset rectum cursom aque, inter predictum Thomam et Galfridum Penultone. Item dicunt quod Alicia Poghdeden obstupasset rectum cursum aque, inter eam et Willielmum de Torbok. Item dicunt quod Ricardus de Rygby obstupasset rectum cursum aque, versus hostium Willielm, de Torbok. Item dicunt quod Ricardus Rygby dolavit Sappelynges in le Wethyns. Item dicunt quod Thomas Penultone dolavit iij. sappelynges in loco predicto. Item dicunt quod Willielmus de Speeke pro transgressionem super le lond jacent. per ortum predicti Willielmi. Item dicunt quod Stephanus Eliot fecit transgressionem super lond predictum. Item dicunt quod uxor Willielmi Han-kynsone fecit transgressionem super le mekyl forlonge halond. Item dicunt quod Ricardus de Rygby fecit transgressionem super le a landes super longehille. Item dicunt quod Thomas Layat tenet a gappe appertum versus le halleyerde.

Alicia uxor Roberti Pecelle pro fraccione sigillii *ijjd.*

Le Reve Willielmus de Torbok ad festum Sancti Michaelis Archangeli, anno regis Henrici quinti quarto.

Constabularius Stephanus Eliot ad terminum predictum juratus.

Burelamen *	Adam de Coldecotes,	} jurati ad terminum predictum.
	Willielmus de Thorne-	
	ton,	

Johannes Thurstansone queritur de Ade de Coldecotes et de omnibus tenentibus ville de Hale, in placito transgressionis, et dicit quod ipsi distruct. et comederunt cum averiis suis herbagium suum inter territorium de Hale per duos annos ultime elapsos, pro quibus solitus fuit habere *ijs.* per annum. Ad dampnum *iijs. iiijd.* Def. negant per inquis. dict. *xiiijd.* de dampno.

Afferatores †	Willielmus de Torbok,	} Jurati.
	Ricardus Henreson,	

Johannes Thurstansone queritur de Ade de Coldecotes in placito transgressionis, pro uno ferthyngre accepto de manu Roberti Coldecotes per xv annos, ad dampnum *ixs.* Def. negat per Inq. cont<sup>r</sup>. usque proximam curiam.

Domina Margeria, que fuit uxor Johannis Irland militis, queritur de heredibus de Johanne Johnson Atkynsone, quare noluit venire et solvere heriot. Def. negat per inquisitionem cont<sup>r</sup>. usque proximam curiam."

Several other presentations follow, but enough has been given to show that, while the writer made such extracts from the earlier rolls as he thought of impor-

\* In another place "Burelaymen."

† Elsewhere "Affirmatores," and "Affirmatores Curie."



tance, here he gives, in full detail, the proceedings of each court; the two last quoted paragraphs, where the charges are referred to the next court, were evidently inserted by a contemporary; and of course we ascertain the period when the parchment book, instead of recounting the wonderful feats of King Arthur and his knights, became a record of the squabbles of alewives and tolls upon pigs. This portion occupies eleven folios, and was probably begun by William Irland upon his coming into possession of the estate, which appears to have been at the commencement of the reign of Henry V in 1413. It is probable that they have been continued to a later period than the 4 Henry V, as there seems a deficiency of one or more quires of parchment in this part of the MS. The whole of this portion is written in a different ink to the rest.

The remainder of the manuscript (12 folios) contains a miscellaneous assortment of memoranda of events happening within the Manor, as claims of Wreck, Waythes, and Strayes, Kele Toll, Coroners' Inquests (the Lord of Hale is still the Coroner), Ordinances, and a long account of the purchases and usurpations of Magister Johannes Leyot, who has been already named. These are of various dates from 3 to 14 Henry VI. In these entries William Irland is often personally referred to, as in the following passage:—

“Item datum est mihi, Willielmo Irland filio Johannis Irland militis, quod die Lune proximo ante festum

Invencionis Sancte Crucis, anno Regis Henrici sexti tercio, Johannes Leyot persona Ecclesie de Malepas et Bangore," &c. Some of the documents connected with Leyot go back as far as 9 Richard II.

One of these, as it names William Kendale, I shall transcribe.

"Memorandum quod die Dominica proximo post festum Sancte Marie Magdelane, anno regis Henrici Quinti nono, et Anno Domini M<sup>10</sup>CCC<sup>mo</sup>XX<sup>mo</sup>, Johannes Leyot Rector de Denforthe et postea Dacanus Cestrie, et modo Rector Ecclesie de Malepas, eodem die monstravit seu protulit in Capella de Hale unam literam attornatoriam Johannis Ducis Befordie (*sic*), fratris regis Henrici quinti, sub sigillo ejusdem Ducis, et declaravit palam et publice coram omnibus ibidem presentibus, quod idem Dux per literam suam attornatoriam misit Thomam Alluerwyk, servientem Johannis Leyot, Attornatum ejusdem Ducis, ad recipiendum seisinam in omnibus terris et tenumentis que idem Dux habuit ex dono et feoffamento Willielmi Kendale Capellani, celebrantem apud Hale presbiter. ejusdem Johannis Leyot, que terre et tenumenta idem Johannes occulte dedit dicto Willielmo; et si aliquis infra dominium de Hale dederit occulte dedit contra formam et consuetudinem manerii de Hale predicti; et in declaracione dixerunt quod Willielmus Kendale dedit feoffamentum predicto Duci, sed carta inde Willielmus Irland, tunc temporis dominus Manerii de Hale, dixit quod non videbat, sed dixit quod vidit literam attornatoriam sub sigillo ejusdem Ducis.



Que terre et tenementa idem Johannes Leyot perquisivit de diversis tenentibus Johannis Irland militis, et Willielmi Irland filii ejusdem Johannis, in Hale, ut patet in Rentale ejusdem ville. Et causa est hec, quia quod Johannes Leyot dedit Wielliemo Kendale presbitero, et similiter ordinavit quod predictus Willielmus daret predicta tenementa Duci predicto, quia dictus Johannes Leyot habuit filium morantem cum predicto Duci, vocatum Magister Ricardus Leyot, et fuit Cancellarius ejusdem Ducis; et pro magna affectione et fide quam habuerunt in Ducem, idem Johannes Leyot constituit ordinavit et imaginavit tale feoffamentum et donacionem factam eidem Duci, ad se manutenendum et supportandum erga Willielmum Irland dominum suum, in magnum prejudicium ejusdem domini sui et in subtractione servicii et herieleti et consuetudinum ex antiquo usitatum."

The four first folios have been filled up afterwards with similar materials; the first memorandum bearing the latest date in the book 4 Edward IV (1465): the last, dated the year before, names William Irland as being still Lord of Hale. At the top of the first page we have what has been intended for a hexameter verse:

"Ad mea principia tibi dico salve Maria."

Two quires of parchment at least have been lost from the beginning, and as many from the end of the book: and several folios at the end are so faded as to be hardly intelligible.

Various marginal notes have been added at different

times; we find at the top of page 68 "Tomas Yrlond," probably a Thomas Ireland who was living *temp.* Henry VIII. At p. 18, "Mary Greene Aug. y<sup>o</sup> 3, 1736, this book belongs to Hale Hall for ever." Other references seem to have been written about the end of the sixteenth century.

The binding of the manuscript is of a primitive sort. Two stout oaken backs, each half an inch thick, and guiltless of a plane, are bound together by seven thongs of white leather, which pass twice through each of the boards, fixed by wooden wedges where they commence on one side, and their ends nailed down on the other. Two thongs of the like material kept the book closed when their ends were fixed on brass nails, one of which still projects from the front board.

There are three copies known of the "Anturs," the Thornton manuscript, in Lincoln Cathedral, the date of which is 1440; the Douce manuscript, Bodleian Library; and the Ireland manuscript, at Hale.

In addition to this there is an illuminated manuscript book of poems, dated 1320, by Rolle, the Hermit of Hampole. These poems consist of "De Morte Purgatorio," "Dei Judicii," and the "Stimulus Conscientiæ, or the Pryk of Conscience," Seven Penitential Psalms. The latter was printed in Warton's *History of Poetry*; there is also the Roll, showing the descent and many of the particulars of the Manor of Hale, from the time of the grant of the manor by King John, referred to on p. 5.

## HALE MANOR.

The Lordship of the Manor of Hale, which has been for so many years held by the family of the present holders, gives many privileges peculiar to the place.

The following account of some of them is extracted from Kuerden's MS., quoted in Baines' *Lancashire*.

The customs of the manor are enumerated in a claim preferred by Sir John Ireland to have wreck of the sea, waif, stray, royal fish taken within the manor, assize of bread and beer, and a view of frank pledge. A court, called the Magna Cura de Hale, used to be held yearly on Wednesday before the feast of St. Andrew, and a court-leet and court-baron on Michaelmas day, at the "Child of Hale" Inn. On these occasions the constables, a coroner for Hale only, two water-bailiffs, burleymen, ale-tasters, and house and fire-lookers used to be chosen. These courts, however, have not been held for a number of years. The lord of Hale enjoyed (in addition to the feudal privileges of waif, stray, and wreck of the sea) anchorage money of 4d. for every vessel that cast anchor on the Lancashire side of the channel within the limits of the manor, or shipped

goods from Hale. The lord has also the tithe fish caught in the river within the limits of the manor, but this is commuted for the whole caught on Friday in every week. The following particular customs are found in the Court Book of Hale:—

“16 Richard II (1392-3). *Wayft*.—It was presented that there were a sheep and lamb at the house of John Atkinson, of the value of 12d. Thomas Leyot, sworn constable. John Colls was at Hale with a ship lying in Ladypull, and have bought and taken 24 quarters of barley, paid to Roger Robinson, bailiff of the manor, 4d. Sir John Ireland's Hale Toll, according to the custom of the manor. 1404. Persons presented for fishing on the Domain : all in Hale and Halewood fined for unlawful fishing in the several fisheries of the lord without license. 1415.—An action brought against Thomas Smith, chaplain, for cutting wood. Persons fined 4d. for a breach of the peace; common drunkards fined, men, 2s., women, 1s. each. A person presented for refusing to sell ale to Thomas Leyot and others, 4d. ; for stopping water-course, not repairing their buildings, committing waste on the lands ; a dog biting a sheep, fined 10d. ; heriots chargeable on change of tenements, persons for not working in harvest-time, for scolding, &c. 13 Henry VI (1434-5).—Richard de Bewdin, de Liverpool, and Thomas Flynne de Botes hull de Hale, with a ship laying in Ladypull, took 20 quarters of corn away, which they had bought and paid for.—To Roger Robinson, bailiff of the liberty, they paid 4d.

14 Henry VI (1435-6).—It happened within the lordship of Hale, on Saturday before the feast of St. Luke, after the hour of nine in the evening, that John Pogheden was in a boat or canoe on the sea, and casually fell in over the side of the canoe, and was drowned (to whose soul God be merciful) ; upon which it was presented that divers goods therein named were delivered by Roger Robinson, the bailiff, to Henry Pogheden, the father of John, to keep to the use of the said lord, as wrecks of the sea ; and shortly after a frigate, or royal boat, was cast on shore, and seized as a wreck of the sea. A person was taken up opposite Oglet by William Norris, Henry le Syre, Hugh Robinson, and John Plae, sailing on the sea ; a jury called—John Cunliffe, of the parochial chapel, William Mercer, chaplain, Richard Harryson, Robert Gill, John Penultone, Robert Wyswell, William Ireland, lord of Hale.”

#### KEEL TOLL.

The following form of Warrant for the annual appointment of Water Bailiff of the Manor of Hale will be interesting :—

“ Forasmuch as there is, and, since out of mind, has been, a Priveledge and Right, belonging to the Lord, or Lords, for the time being, of the Manor of Hale, in the county of Lancaster, to receive here, and take a Duty, for Anchorage, from every ship and vessel, which shall touch and lay an Anchor, to any part of the Manor or lordship of Hale afore-

said. And forasmuch as you, whose name is under-written, are elected, as one of the said Water Bailiffs, to serve the said office for this present year, or untill, from the said office, you shall lawfully be discharged. These are, therefore to require you, duely and diligently, to execute the said office, and from the master of every ship or vessel, which shall touch, or anchor within the Manor of Hale, aforesaid, so demand, and receive, the sum of fourpence for anchorage, as has been usually accustomed.

And upon neglect, or refusal of Payment, you are hereby required to make Distress, for the same, according to former Usage and Custom. And to take to your Assistance, the Constable, or other of his Majesty's Officers, within Hale aforesaid, to see the King's Peace preserved, and all the Tenants and other Inhabitants, within the view of the Court Leet, of the said Manor of Hale, are hereby required to be aiding and assisting unto you, in the due execution of your office, as hath been usually practised. Herein, you are not to fail; at your Peril. Given under my Hand and Seal the twentieth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty-five.

Signed, Thomas Blackburne.

To John Appleton,

Water Bailiff of Hale aforesaid."

Extract from the Abstract of the Documents connected with the Magna Curia de Hale Manor, by William Ireland de Hale, shewing the manners and customs of that day, from 12th Richd. II to 7th Henry VII.

1465. TOLL PAID TO STALLAGE.

4 Ed. IV. John Jackson of the North country, Edward of Little Legh, in the Parish of Preston, and with him, Nicholas Grayson, and one, said to be of Northope, in Wales, passed over Hale ford, with horses, cattle and sheep, and was arrested by Henry Penultone baylive, of the said village, for their stallage, for toll; and thereupon they paid their stallage, to the baylive, in the presence of many tenants of the said village.

4 Ed. IV. WAYFE.

A certain horse was found within the Lordship of Hale, by Thomas Wainwright, and was in his custody three weeks and one day and was proclaimed in Hale Chappell on three Lord's Days, ad altam missam. And for default of some person claiming, or making title to him, the said horse was seized by the baylive of the said village into the



hands of the Lord, as was customary; the Wayfe belonging to the said Lord of the Manor.

Juries' names and Inquisicos, against the Baylive of West Derby Court, contrary to the Liberty upon an Execution. A protest to the Baylive of the Liberty of Hale, to levy with all expedition, the goods of John Bell, sometime tenant of the said Liberty; because he fled his country for Felony; for that he stole three calves, of Roger del Merish, of Kengodelph, and two calves of John Johnson of Hale, which were appraised, and found by Inquisition to be in the hands of divers persons. The Juries' names were—Roger Robinson, John le Clerk, Robt. de Coldcotes, Robt. de Wyswall, Michael Barin, Richd. Rigbye, John Johnson, Adam de Coldcotes, Thomas de Penultone, Will. Poghdene, Thos. Leyot, John Groggs, and Henry del Brage, who find that the said John had sold divers cattle to divers persons, and that the Baylive of Derby (West Derby) Court had upon an Execution, seized divers other things, contrary to the Liberty.

#### 1473. FOR CUTTING OAKS, &c., IN THE WITHEYS AND HALEWOOD.

It is agreed at the Court held at Hale, by the Lord, and four of the village, that if any of the neighbours aforesaid, cut down any Oaks or Saplings, in the Witheys and in the Hale wood, shall



forfeit for every one, 3d., 4d. and for every crab-tree 11d. Every person in Hale, who have one or more swine, of the age of half a year, shall pay 1d. for every one, and that every one, that have swine itinerate in the fields of Hale, shall pay 1d., and if any person will not pay it, to forfeit such swine to the Lord.

Persons prosecuted for leaving gapps open in their fences, whereby their neighbours suffer damage.

Divers persons prosecuted for not coming to reap for the Lord, and are fined 8d.

1455. 33 H. VI.

It is presented, that divers goods were found by divers servants (therein named) of John Ireland, lord of the Manor of Hale, in a house within the manor aforesaid received by the hands of a certain Robber, and were seized into the hands of the Lord as escheat, by virtue of the Liberty of the said village.

II. & VI. That on Feby. next after the Feast of the Conception, that William Norris, Henry le Syre, John Plowme, Hugh Robinson, and John le Norris sailed upon the sea of Mersee, over against Ogelet, and saw a drowned man swimming in the sea, and they took him, and tyed him by a rope, and drew him to the lands of the lord of Hale, that he might have Christian burial place, and sent for the priest, to wit, John Cunliffe of the Parochial Chappell of the

same place, and to Will. Morecote, chaplain, and to Richard Harrison, Robert Gill, John Penultone, the elder, Robert Jankynson, and Robert Wyswall, who would act some time, until they had taken counsel of William Ireland; who, being advised by him, buried the body, and it was required by the said William how much he had upon him, of gold and silver, and how it was answered that when they took him upp, he had in his purse 3s. 6½d., which William le Norris took from him, other things therein mentioned, whereupon the said William Ireland devised that the silver so taken from the body drowned should be delivered by William Norris to the custody of Roger Robinson, Baylive of the Manor of Hale, to the use of the lord, as Dower of the Sea. Whereupon there came the drowned man's wife and daughter, and knew him by his cloathes, and divers other signs, to be one John Syers of Moles in the county of Chester, drowned by the space of 6 months, and they prayed, for the love of God, that there should be delivered to them 3s. 6½d., to dispose thereof, for his soul; and the said William Ireland, considering and seeing that the said body came not to the land of the Lord of Hale by the flux of the sea, but by the coercion of the said William Norris and others, whereupon the said William Ireland commanded the said Roger Robinson to return the said 3s. 6½d. to the said Will: Norris, and the said wife and daughter of the deceased, and the said cloathes also.

It happened that in the Eve of All Saints, 1423, John the son of Peter Walley of Runcorne, intending to pass the ford of Mersey, lying between Hale and Weston, with two horses laden with fish, from Formby, and riding upon another horse, and entering the ford within Hale, they two horses with the fish got safe over, and the said John Walley and his horse were drowned, in the sight of John Chelsham, Robert Rogerson Robinson, and at the return tide the horse was found, as Dower of the Sea, and had upon him a good saddle, and four irons on his feet.

4 H. V. 1420.

John Leyot, Rector of Dinforth, afterwards Dean of Chester, then Rector of the Church of Malpas, produced in the Chappell of Hale, a letter of Attorney of John, Duke of Bedford, brother of King Henry V, under the seal of the said Duke, and declared openly and publicly, that the said Duke, by the said letter, sent Thos. Allerwyk, servant of the said John Leyot, to take seizin in all the lands and tenements, which the said Duke had of the gift of feoffment of William Kendale, chaplain officiating at Hale, priest of the said John Leyot: which land and tenements the said John Leyot had privately given to the said Will. Kendale; and if any one within the lordship of Hale gave it secretly, he did it contrary to the custom of the manor. And in the conversation they said that Will. Kendale had en-

feoffed the said Duke : butt, said Wm. Ireland, the Lord of the Manor said he did not see the feoffment, but he did see the letter of attorney, of the lands, &c., which John Leyot had purchased of divers tenants of John Ireland, Knt., and of William Ireland, son of said John ; and the cause is this ; that John Leyot gave to Will. Kendale, priest, and also ordered that he should give, the said tenements to the Duke ; because the said John Leyot had a son, inhabiting with the said Duke, called Master Rychard Leyot, who was his chancellor, and for the great affection and faith they had in the said Duke, the said John Leyot appointed and ordayned such donation to the said Duke, to maintain and support against William Ireland, his lord, to the great prejudice of the said lord and substruction of his services, Heriots and customs antiently used.

1410.—John Leyot, parson of the church of Malpas, bought one hall of John Blackburne, sometime lord of Garston, which stood in the pull (pool ?) in Holland's Hey, and built the said hall in Hale, upon the comyn, called the old Bernestres, near the two acres which he had of Robert Dyconson, which one Henry Mallison, ancestor of the said Dyconson, had of the gift of feoffment, of Adam de Ireland, ancestor of William Ireland, and produces his grant, rendering 5d. ann. ; that the said John Leyot purchased 8 acres of land in Hale Bank, near Barker's ffield, called Malyns Hey, of Mathew Pull, and showed the original grant from Richard de Mida.

18 Richard II. 1395.—Master John Leyot encroached one great ditch, near the highway, to the great prejudice thereof to the lordshipp, and said he had license.

Mr. John Leyot gave unto his mother, and made unto her an estate of one messuage, and half an oxgang of 40d. per annum. 8 Richard II.—That John Leyot had not paid rent for his hoggs for two years, and that he had 40 hoggs.

There was a certain discord about a fishery, between Master John Leyot on the one part, and John del Crosse, son of John Johnson Atkynson, on the other ; that whereas the said John Leyot had three acres of land, where he had built a hall, of Robert Dyconson, and says that he had a fishery, called the Hoghe fish-yard, which the said John del Crosse occupied unjustly ; and says that at the same time that the said Dyconson enfeofed him of the said moss and three acres, he enfeofed him of the ground where there had been antiently a fishery ; and the said Robert Dyconson putt his hook into the hole of the said fishery, and said, “ I give the seizin of one fishery belonging to my demesne,” and thereupon the said William Ireland took the said fishery into his hands.

Whereupon the said John Leyot, for his right to the said fishery, putt himself in “ Alto et Basso,” viz.: (to arbitration or judgment) of the said William Ireland, lord of the said village, and the same day came before the said William Ireland, and produced

the deed, under the name of Adam de Ireland (ancestor of the said William), whereby he granted to Richard, son of Henry, son of Malyns, 5d. annuum. land called the old barne yard, lying between Morecote on the one part, and the lands of John Ireland and Will. Torbock and others on the other part, rent 5d. at Michaelmas. Test. John le Norris, Willm. de Moleyns and others.

And afterwards the said John Leyot, being sworn as to the seizin of the said fishery, upon the great and new missal, the said William Ireland, considering the premises, ordered that the said John Leyot should have the seisin of the said fishery, and having the right of the lord, the said John Leyot gave to said Crosse, for his labour about building, the said fishery, 15s. And at the same time purchased of Cecily Shipman, a haland in the Morecote, held in socage; and I, William Ireland, would not admit him to pay a heriot, because he pleasesd not us. Further, let it be enquired if any remedy can be by Writt or Decree, that the said John Leyot had a halland in Morecote, mortgaged for him for 3d. and 4d. by Stephen Eliot. "In inquiratur es remedium." Also it is given to be understood by me, William Ireland, son of John Ireland, Knt., that John Leyot, parson of Malpas and Bangor, after the death Amille Port, who had 2 orchards or *ords*, with a chamber built on the priest's raft chamber, for the term of her life, by the gift of Roger Poghdene, who was then dead; whereupon the said John Leyot



showed to Will. Ireland twice, under the names of Roger Poghdene, son of the said Richard, that if the said John Leyot, 'ordinavit' a chantry at Hale, that then the said Roger was pleased that these, the said lands, should go to the said chantry; but if not the said John Leyot should be his attorney, to repay the profits, all which was contrary to the will of the lord, and therefore seized by the baylive.

6 H. VI. 1428.—It is presented that Master John Leyot, tenant of the lord of Hale, was dead, which said John, died (6 Henry VI), who held of the Lord four messuages, and certain lands, and Tenements, in the village, and in the fields of Hale; and that there was a herriot due to the Lord, according to the customs of the Manor.

1 H. VI. 1422.—That the said John Leyot, began to make a declaration, about the two acres, which he had from Dycconson, whereupon his hall stood; which was finished on one side, but from mention in another declaration on the north side of the land to the further end of the morecote and had encroached on William Ireland. That the said John Leyot bought of Henry Chernock, one water-mill, that the said mill was rebuilt at the house of John Leyot, by Thos. Coley and Mathew Walmesley, carpenters, of the parish of Malpas; upon the land late of Robert Dicconson, ann. dmi. 1425, to the great prejudice of the lord, retraction of his multures, and to the oppression of the lord's millers.

7 H. VI. 1428.—A presentment of all the lands,

that belonged to Master John Leyot. It is presented that Master John Leyot, devised to William Kendale, Chaplain, a parcell of an orchard, to be held of the said John, and his heirs under the rent of 5d., which devise was contrary to the form of the statute; therefore ordered to be seized, into the lord's hands, acc:—That the said John Leyot, in his letter, having promised one man called John le Mason, le Yrishman, formerly one of those who built the Tower of Liverpole of John Stanley Knt.; and another person, viz: John le Mason, Northerenman, who built the vault of Henry Norres Knt.; and they two John and John Masons, built the tomb of the said John Leyot lying in the middle of the chancel of the Chappell of Hale, viz: Wednesday, 7th Mar. 1428.

16 Ric. II. 1394.—Henry Norris devised Robert de Wyswall, his tenant, to appear for him in the court, in all things that concerned him. That Robert de Wyswall did not do neighbourship as he ought, according as had been usual, and that he will not suffer the cattle of his neighbours to go into his ffields, as was the custom, and he is always ready with his cattle, to occupy the edyshe of his neighbours.

There is a valuable collection of coins in the Hale Library, and of curiosities of various sorts and degrees of antiquity, made by John Blackburne, of Orford and Newton, and also of stuffed birds, British and foreign, made by Anne, daughter of John Blackburne,



who was an eminent botanist and naturalist. She assisted her father in making the collections, and died at Fairfield, 1793, when the museum was moved to Hale Hall.

There are some curious old charters and manuscripts dating from Henry III to James II.

Extracts from a few of those of most interest have been given under the account of Hale Manor, and the following deeds, dating from 1204 to 1424, though quite local in subject, are not devoid of interest :—

#### NOTES TAKEN OUT OF THE RECORD IN THE TOWER RELATING TO THE MANOR OF HALE.

1204. Confirmation of a grant of Hale to Richard de Mida, of a Market and Fair for Hale.

Grants to Sir Robert de Holland of free warren in Holland, Hale, Orrell, and Marclain, in the County of Lancaster.

A.D. 1226.

I, Cecilia de Columbers, the lady of Hale, mistress of myself (in legia potentate meâ) and with the full consent and assent both of Henry, my son, and my other heirs do grant to Roger de Wysewalle, for his homage and service, fourteen acres of land in Halewood, within these divisions, namely, along Bradseleye, as far as Doddismor, and in breadth from Cressesyche as far as Floxleye, with a house in Hale, lying between two—whereof one is Reginald

Fitz Geoffrey's, on one side, and on the other Henry Fitz Malet's—to hold to the same Roger, and his heirs, with all their appurtenances, and liberty to give or let the same; to farm to any persons except the men of a religious house (*i.e.*, convent). Paying yearly the rent of three shillings at Michaelmas. And I, Cecilia, grant, wind fallen timber to the said Roger, to build with, and make fences on the land; and also firewood to burn: and if he or his heirs, or assigns keep swine, then for one of the best of them he is to be allowed free pasturage for it, but if he or they keep ten, he is to give one, in every ten, to me, the said Cecilia; and to pay me a penny a head for the rest, and if there be not sufficient pasturage in Halewood, he is to take it where it can be found.

*Witnesses*—The Lord Robert de Lathum, Adam de Molineux, the Lord Henry de Torbock, Thurstan de Holland, Robert de Armedsdale, Roger de Hibernia, Alan Norres, Adam de Gayrstan, Geoffrey de Derby, and others.

A.D. 1321.

April 18. I, William de Walton, do release and for ever quit claim to Adam de Hibernia, and Robert, his son, and their heirs and assigns, all the right and claim which I have, or, in any manner could have, or claim, in all or any the lands, or tenements, with the appurtenances whole and entire, in the vill. or territory of Hale,—and in all manors, demesnes, wastes, reliefs, escheats, bondages, rents,

and services of the free and other tenants; so that neither I, nor any heirs, will hereafter claim anything therein or thereout. *Witnesses*—The Lord Robert de Holland, the Lord Robert de Lathum, Mathew de Haydok, Gilbert de Halsall, Richard de Holland, William de Huiton, Thomas de Stonbriggess, and others.

Dated at Lyverpool, on the eve of Easter Sunday (14 Edw. I.)

#### COPY OF A CHARTER IN THE ROLLS OFFICE.

1339 (No. 35), relating to the Manor of Hale.

1339. Confirming to John, son of Adam de Ireland, the whole town of Hale, for the consideration of £4 10s., which was granted to Richard de Mida, son of Gilbert de Waleton. "To our beloved John, son of Adam de Ireland, kinsman and heir to the aforesaid Richard—and as the same John and his ancestors have hitherto held the aforesaid town, and have reasonably used and enjoyed the aforesaid liberty," &c. *Witnessed*—John, Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of all England; Richard, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield; Warenne, Earl of Surrey; Thomas de Beauchamp, Earl of Norwich; Thomas Wake de Lidd, Henry de Ferrers, and others.—5th day of April, by the fine of one Mark.

A.D. 1350.

Sir John de Ireland's plea to a "Qui Warranti,"

on the right of wreckage, of which the same John and his ancestors, whose estate the same John hath, from time whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary, were accustomed to have and use, and receive what wrecks of the sea might be cast up, and thrown within the precincts of the said manor, "also the Royal fish taken in the same."

A.D. 1424.

2 Henry VI. By an Indenture of this date, William Ireland, of Hale, son of Sir John Ireland, Knt., grants and lets to farm, to John of the Mill, son of Roger of the Hale Bank Mill, for the term of his life, six acres of land called the Portershache, lying beside Ditton Pool, with a reasonable part of the waste thereto adjoining. To hold to him, the said John, for the term of his life--paying yearly the rent of four shillings and fivepence for every service. Power is reserved for the lessor to re-enter, if the rent should not be paid, at the rent day, or within six weeks afterwards. After the death of the lessee the land was to revert to the lessor. *Witnesses*—John de Stanley, Knt., Richard de Molineux, Knt., Radulph de Langton, Knt., Henry Blundell, Henry Dickfield, Thomas Ireland, and others.

Dated on Thursday next after the feast "Sancti Marcii." [If this is meant for St. Mark, the date would be 27th April, 1424.]





QUARTERINGS OF THE { IRELANDS  
BLACKBURNES } OF HALE, IN  
THE PANELLED ROOM.

- |                |                 |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Blackburne. | 9. Hesketh.     | 17. Birkenhead. |
| 2. Norreys.    | 10. Holland.    | 18. Hughesley   |
| 3. Lever.      | 11. Columbers.  | (Huxley).       |
| 4. Ashton.     | 12. Walton.     | 19. Done.       |
| 5. Green.      | 13. Merton.     | 20. Kingsley.   |
| 6. Aspinwall.  | 14. Bebbington. | 21. Stretche.   |
| 7. Ireland.    | 15. Handford.   | 22. Blackburne. |
| 8. Hutt.       | 16. Praers.     |                 |

## THE PANELLED ROOM.

Of the oak panelled room there is little to be said. It is the oldest part of the house, coeval with the north front before Sir Gilbert Ireland's improvement, and the date is doubtful. The following are transcripts of the shields painted on the panels:—

*Arms on the Mantel Piece.*

Stanley.



Ireland.



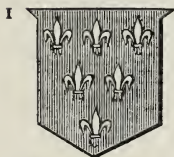
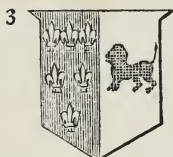
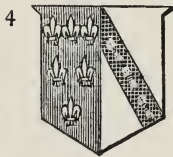
Molineux.



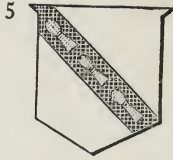
Aspinwall.



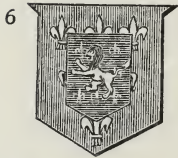
Halsall.

*Shields of Arms round the cornice.*Ireland of  
Hale.Ireland of  
Hutt.Ireland and  
Talbot of  
Daresbury.Ireland and  
Hesketh.

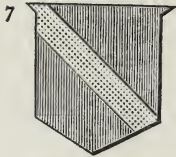




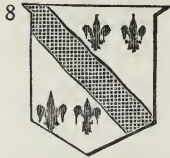
Hesketh.



Ireland and  
Holland.



Columbers.



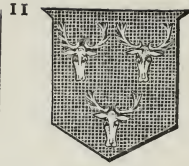
Walton.



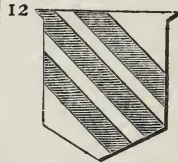
Holland.



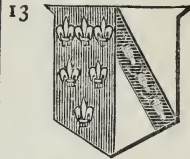
Ireland and  
Merton.



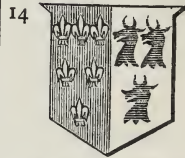
Bebbington.



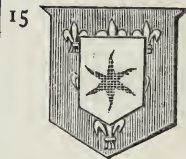
Merton.



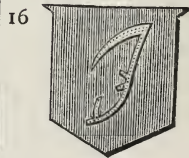
Ireland and  
Stanley.



Ireland and  
Halsall.



Ireland and  
Handford.



Praers.



17

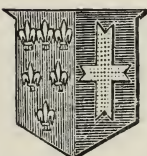


Handford.

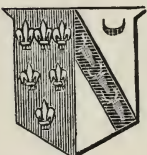
18

Ireland and  
Atherton.

19

Ireland and  
Molineux.

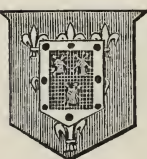
20

Ireland and  
Stanley.

21

Ireland and  
Bold.

22

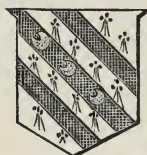
Ireland and  
Birkenhead.

23



Done.

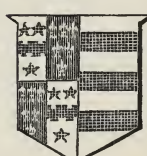
24

Hughesley (or  
Huxley).

25

Ireland Black-  
burne  
and Bamford.

26

Ireland Black-  
burne and  
Bold Hoghton

27



Stretche.

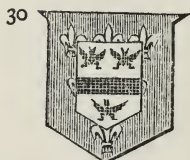
28



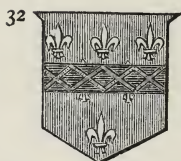
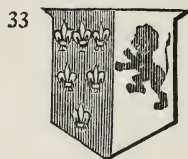
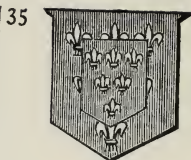
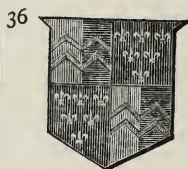
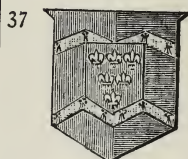
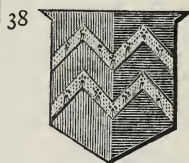
Kingsley.



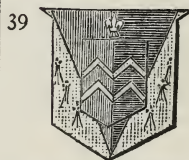
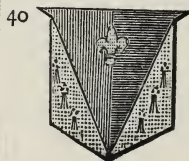
Birkenhead.

Colwick and  
Ireland.

Colwick.

Ireland and  
Leycester.Ireland and  
Legh of  
High Legh.Ireland and  
Hayes.Ireland and  
of Bewsey.Ireland and  
Aspinwall.Aspinwall and  
Ireland.

Aspinwall.

Green and  
Aspinwall.

Green.

41

Blackburne  
and Green.

42

Blackburne  
and Norreys.

43



Norreys.

44

Blackburne  
and Lever.

45



Lever.

46

Blackburne  
and Ashton.

47



Ashton.

48

Blackburne.  
*and Rodbard*

49

Blackburne  
~~and Redbard.~~Two perforated panels on either  
side of the mantel piece.

M I

1671

Margaret  
Ireland.

G I

1671

Gilbert  
Ireland.The crests in use are the Ireland crest—  
Dove and Olive Branch; and the Lever  
crest—Cock and Trumpet.

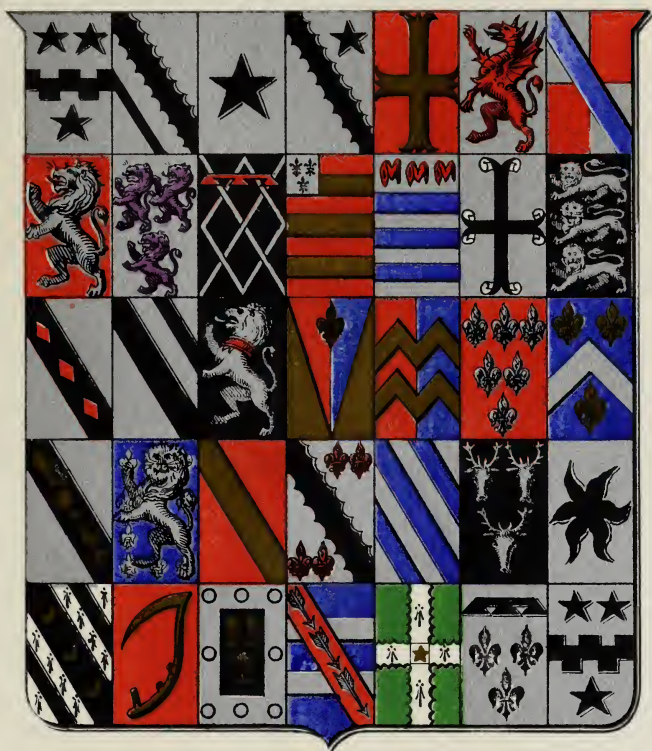
## THE BLACKBURNE PEDIGREE.

An official document, relating to the genealogy of the Blackburne Family, compiled and arranged with care from a record made in the College of Arms and approved by them (recorded in Norfolk X), and in these pages, by Charlotte Blackburne, of Claremont House, Leamington, daughter of Isaac Blackburne, younger brother of John Blackburne, of Hale and Orford, and M.P. for Lancashire; and in loving memory of whom this book is transcribed from her own manuscript. With an Introduction by Letter from William Courthope (Somerset Herald), Rouge Croix, to the Reverend Jonathan Blackburne.

“Dear Sir,—After a hearing which has occupied the best part of four days, the pedigree of Blackburne and connection has been approved and settled by the Examiners, and will be reported in Chapter on Thursday.

“I succeeded in establishing every point of the pedigree, and all the quarterings. The clerical descent of the Blackburnes is established; also that Robert de Blackburne was the ancestor of the Blackburnes of the Garstang line.—W. COURTHOPE (*Somerset Herald*).

“College of Arms, May 1st, 1852.”



## IRELAND BLACKBURNE'S QUARTERINGS.

- |                 |                     |                 |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Blackburne.  | 13. Banister.       | 25. Walton.     |
| 2. Lever.       | 14. English.        | 26. Merton.     |
| 3. Ashton.      | 15. Urswick.        | 27. Bebbington. |
| 4. Radcliffe.   | 16. Bradshaw.       | 28. Handford.   |
| 5. Chadderton.  | 17. Verdun.         | 29. Hughsley.   |
| 6. Trafford.    | 18. Green.          | 30. Praers.     |
| 7. Massey.      | 19. Aspinwall.      | 31. Birkenhead. |
| 8. Kimberley.   | 20. Ireland.        | 32. Done.       |
| 9. Talbot.      | 21. Hutt (Ireland). | 33. Kingsley.   |
| 10. Harrington. | 22. Hesketh.        | 34. Stretche.   |
| 11. Canicfield. | 23. Holland.        | 35. Blackburne. |
| 12. Fleming.    | 24. Columbers.      |                 |





## BLACKBURNES OF SANDHOLME.

The following brief account of the descent of the Blackburnes of Sandholme,\* near Garstang, ancestors of the Blackburnes of Newton, from Henry the Clerk (Clericus) of Blackburne, who held the whole church of Blackburne about 1160, and who sprang from the Decanal House of Whalley, is extracted from Dr. Whitaker's Genealogy of the Deans of Whalley, and the first line of the Towneleys, commencing 170 years before the Conquest.

Spartlenjus. First Dean of Whalley upon record.

Lielphus Cutwolfe of whom, in the Monasticon, is a wild and picturesque story that he cut off the tail of a wolf while hunting in the forest of Rossendale.

Cudwolfe.

Henry Senior.

Robert.

Geoffrey Senior, Son of Robert the Dean. He married a daughter of Roger de Lacy, Baron of Halton and Constable of Chester, by Maude de Clare, his wife, of the Earls of Clare.

\* Sandholme, or Sandham, is in the township of Banastre, in the manor of Nether Wyersdale and parish of Garstang.

In consequence of this marriage, Roger de Lacy granted the villa de Tunley and manor of Coldcoat, with Surdworth, to Geoffrey, son of Robert, Dean of Whalley, who thus became connected with the Lacys, the heroes of crusades and founders of monasteries; the last of which family in the male line, then Earl of Lincoln, left a daughter and sole heir, Alice de Lacy, who married Thomas Plantagenet, Earl of Lancaster, and carried along with her an inheritance, even then estimated at ten thousand marks per annum. This great accession of property was the foundation of the wars of York and Lancaster.

But to return to the pedigree. Geoffrey had by his wife, the daughter of Roger de Lacy, a son, Geoffry, Junior, the Dean.



Roger, the last Dean.

Richard de Tunley, who settled at Tonneley.

Peter de Tunley, or Tonneley, the first who is known to have used these arms.

Richard de Towneley.

Cecilia, who married = John del Legh, the son  
 | of Gilbert del Legh.

Gilbert del Legh, possessed of Towneley (16 Edward III), whence the present family of Townley, *alias* del Legh, they having taken the name of Townley.



## PARISH OF BLACKBURNE.

The first mention of Blackburne<sup>1</sup> is contained in Domesday Book, where we read that King Edward the Confessor held Blakeburne as chief lord of the feof.; there were two hides and two carucates of land. The church had two bovates (or oxgangs) of this land.

At what period antecedent to this survey the church of Blakeburne was founded and endowed it is now impossible to ascertain; but a chain of evidence, reaching nearly from that time, will prove that though a glebe of two oxgangs of land was allotted to it from the beginning, the manor and advowson were early united; that the benefice was held for several descents by the lords of the town; and that (after the Conquest) they required, preliminary to institution, commendatory letters from the chief lord of the feof.

From these evidences also, which are found in the Coucher Book of Whalley (tit. 3), may be collected the following Table of the hereditary rectory and Lords of Blackburn, nearly from the Conquest.

Gamaliel.

Gilbert.

John.

<sup>1</sup> Blake signifies yellow, and Burne a stream, in Saxon.

Richard,\* Henry, the clerk (clericus), of Black-  
*s.p.* burne, held the whole church about  
 1160.

Richard held one Adam, son of Henry, held  
 mediety. the other mediety.

Adam. = Henry. = Roger Campersona, who  
 | assigned his mediety to  
 | John de Lacy.

Agnes, = David de Beatrice, = William de  
 | Hulton. *s.p.* Hulton, his  
 brother.

Richard de Hulton appears to have been son of  
 David and Agnes: he assigned his moiety to John de  
 Lacy in 1230. These facts lead to the belief that  
 the church of Blackburn was founded in Edward  
 the Confessor's time, at least.

Adam, son of Henry.

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Roger Campersona, who assigned his moiety to John de Lacy, 1230-1240. He had three sons, and died 1255.	Ralph de Clayton.	Graham de Clayton.	Richard de Blackburn married Amicia de Kuerden.
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\* Richard Pecke, Bishop of Lichfield, confirms this Henry de  
 Blackburn in the church of Blackburn, in the grant of it to him, as  
 fully as John had received it by Henry de Lacy, the chief lord of  
 the fee, as fully as Gamaliel, or Gilbert, or his other ancestors, had  
 held it.

Gilbert Robert le Dispensator, Elias. John. de Clayton (22 Edward I.)		
Utred	Roger	Alicia, the = John de Kerden wife of (22 Edward I.)
Richard.	Alex.	
	Elias.	Roger. Thomas. John.
	=	=
	John.	=
	=	Roy. Roger. = Amicia.
	Elias.	
	=	Thomas.
Adam Elison de Kerden.	Thomas = Mary.	Robert de Kerden.
		=
		John de Kerden.
		=
John Adam. = Mary.	John.	Elizabeth, daughter and heir, married
	=	
William. = Mary.	Ralph.	Henry de Ker-
	=	den, whence Dr.
	Robert.	Jackson Kerden,
probably about Henry VI, a contemporary, and the deputy of Sir William Dugdale in his visitation, 1664.		

The above Dr. Jackson, *alias* Kerden, descended from the Kerdens of Kerden, not the Blackburnes with whom Mr. Christopher Towneley made the collection of Lancashire pedigrees now in the British Museum, among the Harleian MSS. (1987 and 2112), from which this information has been obtained. It is highly probable that it is from the male line of this family that the Blackburnes of

Sandholme, near Garstang, descend, referred to by Sir William Dugdale in his visitation of Lancashire, 1664, as the ancestors of the Blackburne (the Hale) family. In the registers of Garstang, during nearly all the reign of Elizabeth, numerous entries of a family of this name are found, but no place of residence is attached to the name before the year 1600, when occurs an entry of the baptism of William, son of Thomas Blackburne, of Sandholme. It is worthy of remark that the copy of the register made for the use of the office in the College of Arms, and that usually shown of the visitation of 1664, omits the name of the place, and gives the arms, *Sandholm*, incorrectly, *undy* or *wavy* instead of *nebule*. But the original, in Sir William Dugdale's own hand, has them properly *Nebulæ*. This mistake has been rectified in the margin of the office copy, by Heard, in 1803, but it appears to have misled Dr. Whitaker, who wrote the history of Whalley before that date.

## DESCENT OF THE BLACKBURNES OF BLACKBURN.

The following is extracted from a traditional account, preserved in a memoir called "The Status de Blagbornshire," a Monkish manuscript of the 14th century, translated in Dr. Whitaker's *History of Whalley*.

"The story is shortly this :—

"That in the time of Ethelbert, King of Kent, who began his reign A.D. 596, Augustine the monk was sent to preach the Gospel in England, by Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome ; that, in the course of his mission, he travelled into Northumbria, and preached at Whalley, in memory of which event certain crosses were erected, which, after more than seven centuries, continued to be called the crosses of Augustine That, at the same time, a parish church was erected, dedicated to All Saints, and denominated Whitechurch-under-the-Leigh ; that the rectors of this church were also lords of the town, and married men who held it not by presentation from any other patron, but as their own patrimonial estate, receiving institution, however, from the

Bishops of Lichfield, as ordinaries of the place; that these incumbents wrote themselves and were usually styled, not Rectors, but Deans; of which the reason is supposed to be that, on account of the remote and almost inaccessible situation of the place, entangled with woods and overrun with wild beasts, the Bishops of Lichfield devolved upon them a large portion of ecclesiastical jurisdiction, reserving only to themselves the decision of certain difficult and important cases; that this constitution remained for 470 years before the Conquest, after which period, when the Lordship of Blackburnshire fell into the hands of one grantee from the crown, the absolute independence of the benefice was so far intrenched upon that, though the order of hereditary succession was still preserved, upon every avoidance commendatory letters to the ordinary were granted to the lords, which *they* seemed to consider as partaking of the nature of a presentation, and the clerks affected to accept merely as a testimonial of their birth and family.

“With this change of constitution the Deanery of Whalley subsisted down to the Lateran Council held in the year 1215, which, by finally prohibiting the marriage of ecclesiastics, put an end to this order of hereditary succession, and occasioned resignation of the patronage to the chief lord of the fee, after which the church of Whalley sunk into an ordinary rectory, and this also, after the death of the first incumbent, was further degraded, by two

successive appropriations, into an impoverished vicarage." \*

This singular account is said to be taken from ancient and true chronicles, and Dr. Whitaker endeavours to substantiate many of the statements from existing documents, and makes the following corrections:—First, that this ancient historian probably confounds Augustine with Paulinus, another missionary, mentioned by Bede as having preached in Northumbria, there being no evidence that Augustine did so, and that crosses similar to those now remaining at Whalley were erected in memory of this event at Dewsbury. The era, therefore, of this memorable event, the first preaching of the Gospel at Whalley, may, with a high degree of probability, be fixed between the years 625, when the ministry of Paulinus commenced, and 631, when he was finally driven out of Northumbria by the death of his royal convert, Edwyn. "In one other circumstance," says Dr. Whitaker, "my authority must be received with some abatement, as the church of Whalley could not have been exactly contemporary with Paulinus. On this head the testimony of Bede is decisive;" and since this church was endowed with the whole of the manor of Whalley, as well as with the tithes of an extensive district, Dr. W. thinks this was a lay foundation by

\* The best text of the "Status de Blackburnshire" will be found, Dr. Whitaker says, in the original edition of the *Monasticon* of Dugdale.



the Saxon Lord of Whalley, and this hypothesis will bring down the foundation of the church of Whalley about a century later than the period assigned to it by the author of the "*Status de Blagbornshire*." The place itself is mentioned in the eighth century, in the records of the kingdom of Northumbria. It appears, then, probable that the Saxon Lord of Whalley, being at first the friend and patron of the church of Whalley, afterwards qualified himself, by taking orders, to hold the church, to which he also at the same time gave his patrimonial estate, and had the title of Dean, a title not the same as our present rural dean or dean of a cathedral, but more resembling the *plebanus corban*, or *chorepiscopus* of the Irish Church, or country bishop, who had not the power of ordination.

Dr. Whitaker says, upon the whole, the Dean of Whalley appears then to have been compounded of Patron, Incumbent-in-Ordinary, and Lord of the Manor, an assemblage which may probably have met in later times, and in some places of exempt jurisdiction, but which was at that time probably unique in the history of the English Church. It is a fact little known that fifteen persons held the Archbishopric of Armagh itself in hereditary succession.

A list of these hereditary Deans of Whalley is given by Dr. Whitaker, from evidences in the *Chronicles of Whalley*. Of these the names of ten persons only are preserved, beginning 175 years before the Conquest, besides an indefinite number of



others, whose names are lost in remote antiquity. They are as follows :—Spartlingus (the first dean on record), Liwlphus Cutwulph, Cudwolphus, Henry (the elder), Robert, Henry (the younger), William, Geoffry (the elder), who married the daughter of Roger de Lacey, Constable of Chester and Lord of Blackburnshire; Geoffry (the younger) and his descendant, Richard, brother of the last dean, settled upon the Villa de Tunlay, the gift of the Laceys, his kinsmen, and became the founder of the present family of Towneley of Towneley.

Speaking of Blackburn, Dr. Whitaker (p. 420) says, "There are also many circumstances which lead to the conclusion that the family de Blackburn, lords, patrons, and incumbents of this town and church, were a branch from the deanal house of Whalley; that this parish was served during the existence of the deanery from the original parish of Whalley, and not only endowed with its own tithes, but, on account of its own barrenness, with a fourth part of those of Whalley, also is certain; that the deans should consent to so large a defalcation from their own benefice, but for the advantage of a son or other near kinsman, is highly improbable. That the church of Rochdale, which arose at a later period (the church of Blackburn existed before the Domesday Survey, being mentioned in that record), was actually founded for the same purpose, may be clearly proved, and in addition to this evidence the armorial bearings of the Blackburne family, viz.,

*fess undy* between three mullets, which differs but little from those borne by the first line of the Towneleys, immediate descendants of the last dean, seem to evince that both were branches of the same parent stem." The arms of Blackburn, *fess undy*, as mentioned above, are those of the present Blackburne family, erroneously recorded in 1664 by Sir William



Towneley of  
Towneley.



Blackburne of  
Rushton.



Blackburne or  
Rushton of  
Ponthalgh.



Blackburne of  
Lydiate (16  
Richard II),  
and Newton,  
1664.

Dugdale, where they are *fess wavy* or *undy*, but corrected in the margin to *nebule*, probably by Sir Isaac Heard, 1803. Some remains of the old church of Blackburn were found in taking down the parish church there when the present church was built; they consisted of parts of Saxon capital and tympanum, and were in the possession of the Vicar of Blackburn, 1820-30.

The effects of the decree of Lateran put an end also to the hereditary Lords and Rectors of Blackburn, as it had done to the Deans of Whalley; and about 1250 the Lacys purchased the property of the Blackburnes, and separated the advowson and

the town, which had been united from the circumstance of the lords of the town being the rectors of the church, regranting the moiety of the town to the Huttons of Hutton, one of whom had married a co-heir of Blackburne, but granting the other moiety of the town and the advowson to the Abbey of Stanlawe, in Cheshire, afterwards translated to Whalley.

We find the name of a Blackburn at Wiswall, near Whalley, whose heiress married a Sherborne of Stoneyhurst, the ancestor of Cardinal Weld, of Stoneyhurst. Another appears to have been noted at Rushton, having married the heiress of Rushton and subsequently taking the name. Their arms, a Blackbournes of Rushton, very much resemble those of the Towneleys, more nearly than they do the present arms of Blackburne.

But to return to the Blackbournes of Blackburn. Part of this family, after the alienation of their hereditary property, seem to have settled and launched out to Walton, Cuerden, and Clayton, all of which are only about eleven miles distant. From the branch of Cuerden descended by marriage the antiquarian, Dr. Cuerden, or Kerden, who, with Christopher Townley, made the collection of Lancashire pedigrees, now in the British Museum, among the Harleian MSS., from which we trace the family for some time, probably as low down as Henry VI. And among these memoranda, John, son of Henry de Blackburn de Walton, seals with what appears to

be an otter, so far back as 16 Edward II. Sir William Dugdale affords a later trace of the name of Blackburn, apparently of this family, in 1664, in the "Visitations of Lancashire," where the arms are assigned to the family, but no crest. This latter circumstance is, however, supplied, and the otter crest for Blackburne, which was cut in stone over old Orford House, is strong confirmation of the identity of the family with that of John de Black-



burne de Walton, who uses the same crest for his seal, while the tradition of the descent is supported by Dugdale, who says that the Hale family descend from the Blackburnes of Sandholme, near Garstang, only eleven miles distant from Walton and twenty from Blackburn.

The commencement of Sir William Dugdale's pedigree is as follows:—William Blackburne, of Thistleton, in the county of Lancaster, descended from the Blackburnes of Sandholme, near Garstang, in the county of Lancaster. The above William Blackburne is the person with whom Gregson commences his account, and it appears that he came

from Yorkshire into Lancashire in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. His father, perhaps, or some one of his ancestors, having left Lancashire for Yorkshire, from whence he returned to Garstang.

There is a trace of this branch of the family given by Gregson to Blackburne, of Lydiate, in Lancashire, which is copied from the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum.

The following is a translation of the Charter of the resignation of the Chapel of Walton, Adam de Blakeburne, as given in the Coucher Book of Whalley.

“ To all the faithful in Christ whom these present shall concern, Adam de Blak. sends health.

“ Know ye that I, at the request of John de Lascy, my Lord Constable of Chester, have granted, and by this my present charter have confirmed, to the abbot and monks of the Benedictine House of Stanlawe, the Chapel of Walton, with the land tithes, and obventions belonging to it, for the payment of twenty marks to Richard son of the dean, to be made in his lifetime, until the Lord John de Lascy should provide for the same, Richard, in an equal or better benefice. So that the abbot and monks should pay to me yearly one besant, on the day of St. Leonard, and should bear all the burdens belonging to the mediety of my benefice in the church of Blake. But if the said Richard de Whal-

leye<sup>1</sup> should be translated to the enjoyment of a better life, or depart this life, the chapel, without any contradiction of the abbot and monks, shall remain free and quiet to me. These witnesses, the Lord John de Lascy, constab. Cestrie, the Lord dno. Henry de Notingham, 'persona' de Rewell, Richard de Pontchardin, Hug. de Dutton, Galfro de Burs, dno. R. Capello, and others."

From the same book, it appears that Adam de Blakeburne, who gave in the above charter, was the son of Richard, the son of Henry, from the charter No. 1 of John de Lascy, of the mediety of the church of Blackburn, with the chapel of Walton, and thus this Adam is connected with the Hulton pedigree, as his daughter married Richard de Hulton.

The date of the grant of Lascy may be assigned to the year 1239, for William de Vernon was Judge of Chester in that year, and he was one of the witnesses to the charter.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Richard, son of the dean mentioned above, is therefore plainly Richard de Whalleye.

<sup>2</sup> In the above charter, John de Lascy adds to the confirmation of the mediety of the church of Blakeburn and the chapel of Walton, as far as regards a laical donation . . . to be held as free as any alms can be given to the religious, &c.



## NOTES ON THE PEDIGREE OF BLACKBURNE.

From the general pedigree of the family, and from the accounts existing of the life of Adam de Blackburne, who held the mediety of the church, and who was the son of Richard, the son of Henry de Blackburne, may be shown the influence of the monastic foundations upon parishes, as well as the right of the Blackburnes in the dependant chapelries. We quote from Dr. Whitaker (p. 229), who, in speaking of the situation of the Parish of Blackburn, says—"At the southern extremity of this tract, and of the original Parish of Whalley, is Walton, with the chapel of Law, the only one on the old foundation under Blackburn, and endowed, like most of the rest, with two oxgangs of land." This "Adam de Blackburn, at the request of John de Lacy, his lord, grants to the Abbot and Convent of Stanlaw the Chapel of Walton," &c., "subject to a payment of twenty marks to 'Richard,' son of the 'dean,' until he shall be promoted to a better benefice."

Beatrice de Blakburne, the daughter of the above Adam de Blakburne, who married, secondly, a Hulton, introduces the next family, that of the Ponti-



chardins, or de Ponte Cardonis, as they were sometimes called, as she had first been married to Richard, son of John de Pontichardin. This Beatrice held lands in Billington, Wiswall, and Blakeburne, and had a daughter, Lora de Pontichardin, who married Alan, son of Richard, and grandson of Alan, Lord of Cateral, near Garstang, to whom Richard de Pontichardin gave the manor of Little Mitton, about 7th Edward I, or 1st Edward II. The Caterals left Little Mitton to the Sherbornes. We shall return to Little Mitton again; but as it is connected with the peculiar character of the Persona de Blakburne, we shall here refer to the probable mode of the union of the manor and advowson of Blackburne. Since Dr. Whitaker wrote, some remains of the original church of Blackburne were discovered in taking down the pillars of the chancel of the former church, built about the time of Edward III. They consist of the portions of the two doors and three capitals, with a stone containing an inscription, probably the name of the founder, Wulrelfth, in Anglo-Saxon capitals. The figure on one door is either St. Michael, with a prostrate figure before him, or the Destroying Angel staying his hand over Jerusalem. The other has two figures, a female and male, and apparently the Tree of Life between them; but they have been mutilated by the stones in the octagonal pillars of the chancel. The lady has what appears to be a shield, with a bend, upon her mantle, and in the visitation of 1563, among the arms of northern

families, is one for Blakburne (A. a bend sable and a saltire, G., on the bend) without pedigree. Now, as no person held more than one manor at the time of the Domesday Survey, it seems highly probable that the son or relation of the Dean of Whalley, for whom the Church of Blakburne appears to have been founded, and which was endowed by the Domesday Survey with two oxgangs of land, might have married the heiress of the founder, who was also lord of the manor and town, and thus the hereditary lords and rectors of Blakeburne arose in one person, which may account for the barbarous havoc of the monks. What renders this more probable is that the millennium, as understood by the Church, was the subject of the sculptures upon the doors of the church. We therefore conclude that the lady and gentleman might be the rector and his wife (the symbolical Adam and Eve); and on the capitals of the doors; 1st, a goat and a lamb meeting over a cross; 2nd, two serpents entwined, and a cow with the fleur-de-lys; 3rd, an anchor and cable, all which relate to the imagery of Isaiah, ch. liv, and the millennium.

We return now to Little Mitton, in order to illustrate the origin of parishes, and to show the unity that existed before and after the Conquest, both civil and ecclesiastical. Little Mitton (Dr. Whitaker says, p. 253) was granted by charter of Robert de Lacy, in the 3rd Henry I, to Ralph le Rous, progenitor of the family, who were

afterwards denominated from the place. (See Great Merley, p. 290.) Secondly, appears as witness to a charter without date (but probably, from circumstances, about the time of Richard I), a Sir Ralph de Little Mitton, and by another and nearly contemporary deed, Roger, son of Henry de Whalley, grants one bovate of land in this place to Adam, son of Stephen de Little Mitton. There occurs also a William, son of Orme de Little Mitton. (Townley MSS.)

But to return to the family le Rous, who also held Great Mitton. Dr. Whitaker (note, p. 672) adds, with respect to the manor (he is now speaking of Great Mitton), "I find that in the town of Mittoncum-Wythegill were three carucates which Ralph de Mitton held of the fee of Lacy, who held of the king *in capite*, by no rent." And, in a note, Dr. Whitaker subjoins—"I had unaccountably overlooked the first grant of the manor from Ilbert de Lacy, in the comprehensive charter which I have already proved to be prior to 1102. 'I, Ilbert de Lacy, give and enfranchise to Radulpho (or Ralph) le Rous and his heirs in perpetuity, Great Mitton, Aighton, etc.' I suspect this grantee to have assumed the name of Mitton, and to have been founder of the church of which, after the example of the Deans of Whalley and Rectors of Blakburne, he must have been patron and incumbent; as it may be proved on chronological grounds that one of the Radulphi or Ralphs, styling themselves Personæ de Mitton,

lived at this very time." If this conjecture be well weighed, it will be found to be very little short of moral certainty.<sup>1</sup>

The next trace of this family is at Stonyhurst. Speaking of the Sherbornes of Stonyhurst, from whom Cardinal Weld descended, and explaining how they became possessed of this chantry, which was an enlargement of the original Chapel of St. Nicholas, Dr. Whitaker (p. 469) says:—"We have seen that they became possessed of Stonyhurst by marriage with the heiress of Bayley, and the Bayleys and Mittons were radically the same family. The ancient chantry of the Lords of Mitton, therefore, must, in some partition, have followed the Bayley branch. Oto de Bayley and Hugo de Mitton were brothers, and both sons of Jordan le Rous, as the confirming charter of Robert de Lacy calls him (he was the son of Ralph, the brother of Ilbert de Lacy), sometimes called de Bailey, sometimes de Mitton, as Jordan is said to have been son of Ralph, Personæ de Mitton.

"Of these Ralphs, styling themselves Personæ, there were two at least, of whom the oldest must have lived very near the Conquest."

Of the above family of Sherborne was the person who married the heiress of John de Bayley de

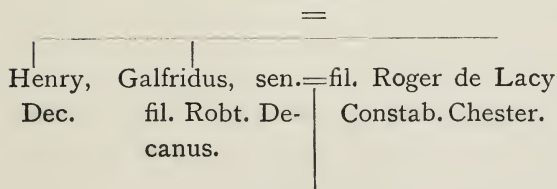
<sup>1</sup> The Mittons becoming extinct, this manor reverted to the lords paramount, and was granted out to the Talbots. The church had been granted to the Abbey of Cockersands by the Mittons.

Wiswail. The case of Ralph le Rous, the brother of the chief lord of the fee, is the only other instance of the *personæ ecclesiæ* in this parish, except the Deans and Rectors of Blakburne. There occurs also, in Dr. Whitaker (p. 253), a William, son of Orme de Little Mitton, which Orme is called, in Ilbert de Lacy's charter, Orme le Anglais; and the grant of one bovaté of land from Roger, son of Henry de Whalley, to Adam, son of Stephen de Little Mitton, about the time of Richard I, is very important, as it shows a transaction between the Deans of Whalley and the *Personæ de Mitton*, and connects the Anglo-Saxon and Norman periods together. It is possible that the above Henry de Whalley may be the Henry, Dean of Whalley, whose name occurs in Dr. Whitaker, which I have marked thus \* in the transcript following. Robert, his son, does not occur in the pedigree, but Dr. Whitaker, in the margin, gives the names of several other members of this family who were unknown to Abbot Lindlay, of Whalley, who preserved the list of deans or rectors. "In Burton's 'Mon. Ebor,'" says Dr. Whitaker, "I have met with some other persons of the decanal family not mentioned in the 'Status de Blagbornshire,' or elsewhere, so far as I know. 1st: Simon, son of Gwifrid, formerly Dean of Whalley, grants certain lands in Hedgefield to the monastery of Fountains (p. 106). Again: Josias, son of Robert, formerly Dean of Whalley, quit claims to the same, certain

lands in Ripley (p. 197). Lastly: Henry, son of Geoffrey, Dean of Whalley, grants land to the same in Swinton. He is afterwards called Henry de Whalleys. Henry de Whalley married Eleanor, daughter of Simon de Montalt, by whom he had Geoffrey de Whalley, living in 1261, of whose posterity I know nothing. Query. Is this the Henry son of Geoffrey, Dean of Whalley, who married the daughter of Roger, Constable of Chester, referred to later under the family of Blackburne of Sandholme? The Montalts of Hawarden Castle, Flintshire, were seneschals to the Earls of Chester, and perhaps the same family. A Montalt occurs as High Sheriff of Lancashire in 1160, and another in 1272."

# FROM DR. WHITAKER'S PEDIGREE.

Robertus.



Henricus \* fil. Galf.  
per Cant. Nothing  
more is known of him.  
He was unknown to Ab-  
bot Lindlay. These  
parties attest a charter.

Query. Is he the  
father of Geoffrey, by  
Eleanor de Montalt,  
in 1281?

Robert de Whalley,  
son of Geoffrey, the  
Dean, and Persona de  
Rochdale—seals with  
fleur-de-lys—who was  
dead before 1192.

Galf., junr., Robertus  
decanus. Persona  
= de Alve-  
tham et  
postea  
de Roch-  
dale.

Roger, Richard de  
decanus Tunley.  
ultimus. =

|  
Peter de Tun-  
ley. The first  
person known  
to have used  
the present  
arms.



We proceed now to Downham. The parochial  
chapelry of Downham is of the old foundation  
under Whalley, under the deanery. "By deed



without date, Roger, Rector of the Church of Whalley, grants to Jordan, son of Pellpier (Pilliperius the tanner) four acres in campis de Dounum, under Greenhow, to be had in fee and hereditarily, and 'to be held of thee, of God, and of All Saints (the ancient dedication of Whalley), and of the Church of Whalley. Witness: Ughtred, the Clerk of Whalley; Gilbert, Chaplain of Whalley.' By another deed, without date, but about the year 1300, William de Greenhow quit claims the said four acres in Greenhow." The font of this church (Downham), though angular, is of considerable antiquity, and bears the following shield:—A chevron between three fleurs-de-lys, colours effaced.

But we now arrive at the interesting point which connects the civil and ecclesiastical state of this parish before and after the Conquest, and shows who the Personæ de Mitton really were, and that no other family, except a brother of the great lord of the fee, Ilbert de Lacy, besides the Deans of Whalley and Rectors of Blackburne, took the title of Personæ, as the mesne lords and incumbents of churches.

"At the northern extremity of this favoured tract," says Dr. Whitaker, "is the beautiful village of Downham, with the dependent hamlet and mesne manor of Twiston. The various manners in which this word has been anciently written exceeds the ordinary laxity of old English orthography—Donnom, Donnum, Dounom, Dounum, Downom, and lastly,

Downham. Of the etymology of the word there can be little doubt, *dun*, a hill, and *ham*, a habitation, exactly according with the elevation on which the village stands, or with the green and swelling hill which rises in front of the manor house. This is the only instance in which I have been able to trace the history of property anterior to the Conquest, for by the inestimable charter of Ilbert de Lacy the said Ilbert confirms to *Ralph le Rous*, his brother, the sixth part of a knight's fee which Aufray had granted to him in Downom.

“ It has been observed before, upon the authority of Domesday Book, and of the Status de Blagbornshire, that previous to the Norman Conquest every village had its lord, holding only of the Crown *in capite*, and it may be inferred from this conveyance that after the kingdom was cantoned out by the Conqueror, among his principal followers, the independent Saxon lords were not wholly displaced from their possessions; but, though reduced to the condition of mesne lords and subjected to the rigors of feudal law, yet they were permitted to hold, or by license to alienate their manors at pleasure.

“ Aufray (like Offrey in the old song, see Dr. Percy's coll., vol. ii, p. 308) is nothing more than a corruption of the venerable name of Alfred, and the discovery is so far of importance, as it stands single in the civil history of the parish, and affords to a curious mind a glimpse into the era of Saxon independence and simplicity.” To this I have only

to add that I have before quoted the grant of Roger, rector of the church of Whalley, of lands in this parish to be held of that church, which collects the civil and ecclesiastical condition together.

To contrast the account given by Dr. Whitaker, and in the Coucher Book of Whalley, with that of the monks of Pontefract, we subjoin the translation of the case of the monks of Pontefract, who claimed the foundation of the Abbey of Whalley, and it exemplifies the distinction which we have made previously from the clause in the charter of John de Lacey<sup>1</sup> with respect to laical donation, and it is evidently an attempt to deny the hereditary succession of the deans of Whalley. This latter fact becomes more interesting still from the pedigree of the family of Salmesbury, with whom they intermarried, from which marriage the grant of Clerk Hill,<sup>2</sup> near Whalley (the residence of the late Lady Gardiner and the Whalleys), to Uetred, the clerk, son of Gospatrick de Samlesbury, may be traced. The distinction of the grant of lands held under the church of Whalley by the deans, as stated in Dr. Whitaker, and the gift of Lacey, as a lay gift, is very remarkable.

The claim of the monks of Pontefract is as follows, and it arose from the forfeiture of their lands to Henry I, by the Laceys, who espoused the better

<sup>1</sup> *Vide* p. 112.

<sup>2</sup> Clerk Hill appears to have been granted to Uetred, the clerk, by Geoffrey, Dean of Whalley.—See Dr. Whitaker's *Hist.*, p. 54.

cause of Robert Curthose, and their grant of Hugh de la Val, in the interim, a grant which was not confirmed upon the restoration of the Laceys :—"A certain ancestor of the Earl of Lincoln, Hugh de la Val by name [which is untrue], gave the right of the patronage of the church of Whalley to the priory and convent of Pontefract, who (the priory, &c.) presented to it successively A, B, C, all of whom were admitted and instituted by the diocesan ; amongst whom there was a certain Spartlingus,<sup>1</sup> who, being dead, there succeeded to him a certain Lielphus, who was surnamed Cutwolp, because he, being on a certain occasion in the forest of Rossendale, looking at his dogs which were running, cut off the tail of a wolf which ran towards him.

"The said Lielphus being dead, a certain predecessor of the said earl, the *said priory being vacant* and in *his* custody, presented, by the name of guardian, a certain Geoffrey to it, who married a daughter of Gospatrick de Samlesbury [see Dr. Whitaker], by whom he had sons and daughters, from whom many noble families in these parts still remain. Geoffrey, being dead, Geoffrey, his son, succeeded, *nominally hereditarily* [a monkish mode of stating a fact], who being dead, a certain ancestor of the said earl presented a certain Roger, and after him Peter de Chester, the aforesaid priory and convent not daring to reclaim" [this artfully put

case confirms the true statement of Abbot Lindley given in Dr. Whitaker]; we subjoin just so much of it further as will show this by comparison with Dr. Whitaker.

“But during the lifetime of Peter de Chester, the aforesaid earl gave the patronage of the aforesaid church of Whalley to the abbot and convent of Stanlow, an obligatory letter being first received from them [which was a fiction of the monks of Pontefract to foist in their claim, for they could not deny the fact] that as often as it (the church of Whalley) should be vacant, they (the priory of Stanlow) should present to it whoever he or his heirs might wish, unless they could appropriate it to their own uses.”

As this had not been done at the time, the object of the monks was to obtain the church of Whalley for the priory of Pontefract under the grant, though unconfirmed of de la Val. Dr. Whitaker remarks, in his work, that the distinction must be kept in mind between an appropriation, which merely gave the right of the advowson, and the impropriation, by which the monks applied the benefice to their own uses. Bearing this in mind, we proceed to notice further the case of the monks of Pontefract, which we have thus transcribed, with Dr. Whitaker's remarks upon it, which are contained in the appendix to the edition of 1818, but are not found in the previous one; and in order to illustrate the appropriation, or grant of the advow-

son of Whalley to Stanlow, and the impropriation to their own uses, which required the consent of the Bishop and the Pope; for it was intended that upon the impropriation taking effect, the convent of Stanlow should augment the customary number of monks required from forty to sixty, and that the monastery should be transferred or translated to the territory of the said church of Whalley.

The following is an extract also from the case:—  
 “Afterwards Nicolaus Papa IV conceded to them its appropriation (the rector, Peter de Chester, ceding or dying), except the suitable portion for the vicarage. Afterwards Pope Boniface revoked the appropriation conceded by his forenamed predecessor, of which they have not at this day right in the thing, though in possession.” (*de quibus non habitatus ipse die jus in relicet et rem.*) Upon which Dr. Whitaker remarks (Appendix, p. 515, ed. 1818), “Such is this singular and important case, very artfully but untruly stated by the prior and convent of Pontefract, or their advocates. In the first place, it was their object to prove the “*jus in re*,” and therefore forgetting that Hugh de la Val, from whom they derived their title in the benefice, lived in the time of Stephen, they pretend to prove a presentation in the person of Lielphus Cudwolp, who lived before the Conquest. In the next place, that an ancestor of the then Earl of Lincoln presented, during a vacancy, as patron of the convent, and that in con-



sequence, on the next avoidance, the representative of the Lacy family presented in his own right ; but of this there is neither proof nor probability. De la Val's charter appears never to have been confirmed, in consequence of which defect his grant to the priory of Pontefract was invalidated, and the advowson returned, with the other estates of the Lacy family, to their former owners. The later transactions which took place between the Earls of Lincoln, Bishop Neuland, and the monks of Stanlow were shamefully simoniacal, and the convent of Pontefract expose them *con amore*, but the value of the rectory of Whalley was greatly overrated." These transactions, among others, were to obtain a renunciation from the abbey of the rights of the deans to hunt in the forests, &c., and its impropriation to the monks of Stanlow in opposition to the claims of those of Pontefract ; and it shows the evils of the monastic system fully ; and the impoverished vicarage is all that now remains to the church of Whalley of the ancient deanery and abbey, so that the evils are perpetuated. The monks mis-state the marriage of Geoffrey the elder, Dean of Whalley, with the daughter of Gospatrick de Samlesbury, and omit that (named by Dr. Whitaker) with the daughter of Roger de Lacy, Constable of Chester, whence, in fact, the Villa de Tunley was obtained. This Geoffrey the elder, who was contemporary with Adam, son of Richard de Blakburne, *circa* 1192-1211, had a son, Geoffrey



the younger, who married the daughter of Gospatrick de Samlesbury, and whose son Roger was the last dean. This brings the chronology of the Blackburnes of Wiswall and of the family de Samlesbury together.

Sir Adam de Blakburne is said, in the Shireburne Pedigree, to have married the daughter of Amabel de Rokeby, and Alan de Samlesbury, who was brother of Uetrèd, son of Gospatrick de Samlesbury (about 1200), married an Amabel de Blakburne.

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The Blackburnes of Orford, which they held from 1637, and whose traditionary descent is given at p. 97, settled at Hale, 1787, when the Irelands and their estates merged into the Ireland-Blackburnes of the present day, by marriage, as aforesaid, since which time Orford fell into secondary importance, and ceased to be a family residence. The avenue, of which the straight road from the obelisk up to the hall only exists, perished gradually under the pressure of thriving trade and increasing railways; and their accompaniments, the noxious vapours, under the garb and progress of civilisation, threaten, in destroying vegetation, to deteriorate landed property in South-West Lancashire.



ORFORD AVENUE OF THE PRESENT DAY.





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Dance p. 33 : 40

Gainsboro' p. 40

Hudson p. 41

Radcliffe p. 35

Romney p. 40

Winstanley p. 34



